



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

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White Says State Library to Receive \$6 Million in Federal Funds to Support Illinois Libraries

Springfield — Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced today that the Illinois State Library will receive \$6.03 million from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to help Illinois libraries create new services and programs, share collections, holdings and statewide databases, train library staff and expand the role of networks, consortia and partnerships.

"LSTA funds are some of the most important funds the Illinois State Library distributes each year," White said. "At a time when financial resources at both the state and federal levels are limited, I am pleased that Congress has recognized how important our libraries are and voted to appropriate these funds that are essential to the operation of libraries in Illinois. The Illinois Congressional delegation has been extremely supportive of LSTA, and the library community in Illinois appreciates their efforts on our behalf."

White said the grants are awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and are made to each state according to a population-based formula. The Illinois State Library administers the funds for the development of projects in Illinois libraries that focus on library service, new initiatives, technology and library activities. Libraries apply for the LSTA funds through the State Library, which then awards grants to academic, school, public and special libraries across the state.

"It is important for our libraries to develop new programs and services and share information and resources with other libraries," White said. "Illinois librarians are constantly striving to improve the services they offer to their patrons. LSTA funds

allow our libraries to be creative in developing new ways to serve patrons. The vision, commitment and professionalism of our librarians make our communities stronger.

"We encourage innovation and the development of new ideas to improve libraries. Federal LSTA funds have provided the opportunity for Illinois libraries to develop new and innovative programs to serve our communities better, and I am confident these funds will ensure that we are always ready to meet the needs of our patrons."