



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

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### **JESSE WHITE SAYS BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION GRANTS WILL ALLOW LIBRARIES TO UPGRADE AND BUY NEW COMPUTERS**

SPRINGFIELD—Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White today applauded the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for providing Opportunity Online Hardware Grants that will allow 128 Illinois public libraries to upgrade and buy new computers.

White said the Opportunity Online Hardware Grant Program is designed to build the sustainability of free computer and Internet access at public libraries. The program focuses on libraries that are not yet able to adequately serve their patron's technology needs and are also serving high-poverty communities with limited access to computers and the Internet. 128 public libraries were deemed eligible by the Gates Foundation to receive funds through the grant program, based on economic need and aging computers. The Illinois State Library will administer funding to the participating libraries.

"Public libraries have been leaders in helping bridge the 'digital divide' in Illinois and throughout the country," said White. "Our libraries enable thousands of people in our state to find important information online, find jobs, and benefit from technology tools they would never be able to access elsewhere. The Opportunity Online grants will help Illinois libraries build the support and momentum to sustain high-quality technology services for all our community members for many years to come."

The program requires a local funding match of 25 to 50 per cent over a two-year period. The local match is designed to provide an incentive for libraries to engage the community to raise funds and communicate the value of technology in libraries. The program also seeks to motivate local governments to commit long-term local funding to computer services in public libraries.

(A list of libraries receiving grants is attached.)

### **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Jeff Raikes and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett. Learn more at [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org).

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**LIBRARIES CHOSEN TO RECEIVE BILL AND MELINDA GATES  
FOUNDATION OPPORTUNITY ONLINE HARDWARE GRANTS**

Albion Public Library  
Altamont Public Library  
Annawan-Alba Township Library  
Anne West Lindsay District Library  
Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
Barry Public Library  
Beecher Community Library District  
Belleville Public Library  
Benton Public Library District  
Bethalto Public Library District  
Bluffs Public Library  
Bradley Public Library District  
Broadview Public Library District  
Bryan-Bennett Library  
C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District  
Cahokia Public Library District  
Cairo Public Library  
Calumet Park Public Library  
Carmi Public Library  
Carnegie-Schuyler Library  
Carrier Mills-Stonefort Public Library District  
Casey Township Library  
Caseyville Public Library District  
Centralia Regional Library District  
Centreville Public Library  
Champaign Public Library  
Chicago Heights Public Library  
Chicago Ridge Public Library  
Christopher Public Library  
Colchester District Library  
Colona District Public Library  
Coulterville Public Library  
Crab Orchard Public Library District  
Creston-Dement Library  
Creve Coeur Public Library District  
Cutler Public Library  
Dahlgren Public Library  
Daugherty Public Library District  
Dodge Memorial Public Library District  
Dongola Public Library District  
DuQuoin Public Library

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East Alton Public Library District  
East St. Louis Public Library  
Eldorado Memorial Public Library District  
Evans Public Library District  
Evanston Public Library  
Fairfield Public Library  
Flora Public Library  
Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library  
Freeburg Area Library District  
Galatia Public Library District  
Grand Tower Public Library  
Greenfield Public Library  
Greenville Public Library  
Griggsville Public Library  
Hamilton Public Library  
Hanover Township Library  
Herrick Township Public Library  
Herrin City Library  
Hillsboro Public Library  
Homewood Public Library District  
Hudson Area Public Library District  
Ira C. Reed Public Library  
Johnston City Public Library  
Joliet Public Library  
Jonesboro Public Library  
Justice Public Library District  
Kankakee Public Library  
Lawrence Public Library District  
Lebanon Public Library  
Lincoln Library  
Litchfield Public Library District  
Macomb Public Library District  
M-C River Valley Public Library District  
McCook Public Library District  
McCoy Memorial Library  
Mercer Carnegie Public Library District  
Metropolis Public Library  
Mineral-Gold Public Library District  
Mounds Public Library  
Mount Carroll Township Public Library  
Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District  
Neponset Public Library  
Newman Regional Library District  
Norris City Memorial Public Library District

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Oak Park Public Library  
Oakwood Public Library District  
Olney Public Library  
Palos Heights Public Library  
Paris Carnegie Public Library  
Pekin Public Library  
Pembroke Public Library District  
Peoria Heights Public Library  
Peoria Public Library  
Peru Public Library  
Pinckneyville Public Library  
Pittsfield Public Library  
Pontiac Public Library  
Quincy Public Library  
Ramsey Public Library  
Rantoul Public Library  
Richard A. Mautino Memorial Library  
Rick Warren Memorial Public Library District  
Riverton Village Library  
Rock Falls Public Library District  
Roodhouse Public Library  
Rosiclare Memorial Public Library  
Roxana Public Library District  
Sallie Logan Public Library  
Schiller Park Public Library  
Schmaling Memorial Public Library District  
Sesser Public Library  
Shawneetown Public Library  
Sidell District Library  
Silvis Public Library  
Six Mile Regional Library District  
Sparta Public Library  
St. Elmo Public Library District  
Stickney-Forest View Public Library District  
Stinson Memorial Public Library District  
Sumpter Township Library  
Vienna Carnegie Public Library  
Warren County Public Library District  
Wayne City Public Library  
Western District Library  
Westville Public Library District  
William Leonard Public Library District  
Wilmette Public Library District

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