



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

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White, Durbin Announce Grant to Illinois State Library for Public Library “Business Packages” to Help Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

SPRINGFIELD— Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and United States Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) announced today that the Illinois State Library will provide over 60 Illinois public libraries with “business packages” that include equipment, software and training videos to assist small businesses and entrepreneurs in local communities.

Senator Durbin obtained a \$300,000 grant through the Small Business Administration (SBA) to fund the initiative. Secretary White said the State Library will administer the funds, and White invited public libraries to apply for the packages.

“Our public libraries are cornerstones of our communities, and partnerships such as this between libraries, small businesses and aspiring employers can hopefully spur economic development and job creation in our local communities,” said White. “Highly skilled librarians and library staff are extremely valuable and reliable sources of information for small businesses and entrepreneurs. These business packages represent new tools that our public libraries can utilize to promote business development and entrepreneurship. Illinois is very fortunate to have a public servant like Senator Durbin who supports our libraries and recognizes that they can be useful in assisting economic development in Illinois.”

“Small businesses are key to our economic recovery,” Senator Durbin said. “This funding will allow public libraries to offer information and assistance to small business owners in communities across the state. With these new resources and continued support from local public libraries, businesses throughout Illinois will grow and local economies will improve.”

Public libraries that are selected to participate in the program will receive equipment (laptops, DVD players, projectors, video camera), software (planning and office functions) and training videos (office safety, sexual harassment, hostile workplace). The criteria for awarding the package include local unemployment rate; proximity to and cooperation with a Small Business Development Center, Service Corps of Retired Employees (SCORE) office, or chamber of commerce.

Public libraries may apply for the packages by contacting Joseph Natale (jnatale@ilsos.net, 217-558-4185) at the Illinois State Library and completing the “Interest Indicator Survey” form posted at (http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/busandlibs.html) by May 16.

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