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For More Information Contact:
Rachel Farrer

Jesse White Awards More Than \$1.5 Million in Talking Book Center Grants
Funds Provide Services for Residents with Print Disabilities

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded \$1,526,542 in Talking Book Center (TBC) grants. The three library systems — Illinois Heartland, Reaching Across Illinois and Chicago Public Library — together with the Illinois State Library, provide talking book and braille services for Illinois residents. TBC grants support the services of the library systems.

“Talking books offer a wonderful opportunity for anyone who cannot use regular print materials due to blindness, visual impairment or physical disability,” said White. “Literacy tools should be available to all, regardless of impairment or disability.”

The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) supports the activities of the Illinois Network of Libraries Serving the Blind and Physically Handicapped in providing public library service to any Illinois resident who is unable to read standard print material due to a permanent or temporary visual or physical disability.

The four customer service sites are the Regional Library in Springfield, the Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center at the Harold Washington Library Center, the Illinois Talking Book Advisory and Outreach Center in Burr Ridge and the Illinois Machine Sub-Lending Agency in DuQuoin. All sites strive to enrich the quality of life for eligible Illinois residents.

The Regional Library acts as the liaison with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and circulates books to all residents enrolled in TBBS. In conjunction with the local service centers, the regional center provides a full range of library services specializing in braille and audio books.

For more information about TBBS, contact Sharon Ruda at 217-782-9435 or sruda@ilsos.net. Information also is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/TBBS/home.html.

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