

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY November 2018

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director

Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Applications Due January 15

The FY19 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application and FY17 Expenditure Report forms are available at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html.

Instructions for completing a fillable PDF are available at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/grant-pdf-instructions.html>.

When you have completed the application and report(s), email the documents to Percap-grant@ilsos.net by **January 15, 2019**. Be sure to include your city in the subject line.

Please contact [Jeanne Urbanek](#) for more information.

FY20 Literacy Grant Information Sessions

The FY20 State Library Secretary of State Adult Literacy Grant Information sessions will be held on Wednesday, **December 5, 2018**. All grant applicants are encouraged to attend the appropriate online presentation(s); Literacy Office staff will go over the FY20 application and programming requirements.

Workplace Skills Enhancement Grant Information Session

Time: 9-10 a.m.

Method of meeting: Online presentation using Adobe Connect web conferencing through any computer using this link <http://webjunctionillinois.adobeconnect.com/fy20wsegrantinfo/>

Registration: Registration is optional. You may register at <https://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=28048>

Adult Volunteer Literacy Grant Information Session

Time: 10:30 a.m.-Noon p.m.

Method of meeting: Online presentation using Adobe Connect web conferencing through any computer using this link <http://webjunctionillinois.adobeconnect.com/fy20avlgrantinfo/>

Registration: Registration is optional. You may register at <https://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=28049>

Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant Information Session

Time: 1:30-3 p.m.

Method of meeting: Online presentation using Adobe Connect web conferencing through any computer using this link <http://webjunctionillinois.adobeconnect.com/fy20famgrantinfo/>

Registration: Registration is optional. You may register at <https://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=28050>

Prior to the presentations, attendees may print the relevant grant applications, the Instructions for Completing Fillable Grant Forms document and the appropriate Grant Reviewer's Rubrics, Scores and Comment form so that they can take notes during the presentation. All documents are available on our website at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/home.html>.

FY20 grant applications will be due February 1, 2019. Please contact the Literacy Office if you have questions concerning the grant programs or application procedures, call 217-785-6921 or 800-665-5576.

FY20 Adult Literacy Grant Volunteer Reviewers Needed

The State Library is inviting librarians, literacy professionals, educators and interested members of the public to serve as volunteer grant reviewers for the [Adult Literacy Grant Program Volunteer Review Committee](#). This committee will evaluate FY20 Adult Literacy grant applications in accordance with [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035.230](#). If you are interested in assisting the State Library in recommending Adult Literacy grant applications for funding, please compose a brief letter of application with your name, address, phone and email. Indicate where you are employed including the address. Briefly explain why you would like to assist in reviewing the grant applications. Please be specific in explaining your knowledge of adult literacy. Email your letter of application containing all the requested information to [Beth Paoli](#) before **December 14, 2018**.

“Letters About Literature” Contest

“Letters About Literature” is an annual national reading and writing competition funded by the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Illinois Center for the Book. The contest invites students to read a book, poem or play of their choice and write a letter to the author about how the work has changed their life or view of the world. Students can enter on their own or through their schools, libraries or other youth organizations.

There are three levels of participation: Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8 and Level III for grades 9-12. One Illinois winner will be selected for each level and receive a \$200 cash award. Teachers/librarians of the winning students will receive a \$100 cash award to purchase materials for their school/public library. The state’s winning letters will be forwarded to the Library of Congress for the national competition.

This year online entries will be accepted for all students beginning Nov. 1. The entry deadline is **Dec. 14, 2018**. State winners will be announced in May 2019.

Information about the contest is available at

http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/center_for_the_book/.

FY19 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program Webinar Available

A webinar for public libraries interested in applying for the FY19 Live & Learn Construction Grant Program is now available on the grant program’s webpage located at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/constructgrants.html>. The webinar provides an overview of the program including eligibility requirements, grant categories, rules and regulations governing the program, application procedures, required supporting documentation, grant submission and review procedures.

Applications for the program are now being accepted by the Illinois State Library and must be submitted on or before **January 11, 2019**. For more information or if you need assistance in the application process, please contact Mark Shaffer at mshaffer@ilsos.net.

“Illinois Reads” author spotlights

The authors and illustrators below have published books that are included in the 2018 “Illinois Reads” [book list](#) for children from grades 9-12. “Illinois Reads” is an initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) that highlights the importance of reading at all ages and supports Illinois authors. Each year, the program offers a list of 36 titles written and/or illustrated by Illinois authors at six different age levels from birth to adult.

- [Ami Polonsky](#) lives in Deerfield and is a reading and writing tutor, mother of two young children and author, among other things. A former Language Arts teacher and literacy coach, Ami remains passionate about guiding children towards a love of books and helping create lifetime readers. Her debut novel, [“Gracefully Grayson,”](#) is a thoughtful story about an introverted sixth grade

transgender student who begins to come into her own. A discussion guide is available for this Top 100 Children's Book on Goodreads.

- New York Times bestselling author, [Joelle Charbonneau](#), lives in Chicago. As a graduate of the School of Music at both Millikin University and DePaul University, she has performed in opera and musical theater productions across the "Windy City." Her books are very popular with young adults and have garnered many awards. "Testing," her bestselling trilogy, has been optioned by Paramount. The first book in her fantasy royalty sibling series, "[Dividing Eden](#)," received a starred review from Publishers Weekly.
- [Kat Helgeson](#) lives in Chicago and creates content for social media channels during the day and writes young adult novels at night. Her second book, "[Say No To The Bro](#)," is a story about Ava, the new girl in town, whose father is the football coach. She grapples with the unwanted attention of being forced into the senior high school prom date auction. The comical story will make you think about long held traditions tied to gender roles.
- Editor and podcaster [Christa Desir](#) lives outside of Chicago and writes contemporary Young Adult fiction under the pen name of C. Desir. For more than 10 years, she volunteered as a rape victim activist, providing direct service in Emergency Rooms. She is a founding member of the [Voices and Faces Project](#), a nonprofit organization for rape survivors that conducts an international survivor-based testimonial writing workshop. Her book, "[Other Broken Things](#)," is "a portrait of a teenage alcoholic that is honest and unsparing."
- [Kym Brunner](#) is a native Chicagoan and teaches seventh grade reading and writing. At the urging of one of her teaching assistants who said she was creative and always talked about writing books, said that she finally should. As a result, she decided to take classes. Her first book came out 10 years later but since then, she has been writing almost every day. Her third book, "[Flip The Bird](#)," is a fresh and funny novel about a teenage falconer in training who gets in trouble when he finds himself falling for a girl who is part of a radical animal rights group.
- [Michael Tackett](#) is an award winning journalist who currently serves as the Editor of the Washington Bureau for the New York Times. A journalist for over 30 years, Tackett started his career at the Chicago Tribune as a city desk reporter. His book, "[The Baseball Whisperer](#)," is a real "Field of Dreams" story about a legendary coach and the professional-caliber baseball program he built in America's heartland, where boys come summer after summer to be molded into ballplayers and men.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **PODER Learning Center** in Chicago. The learner moved to the U.S. from Peru and like many immigrants, she struggled with language barriers and unemployment upon arrival. The learner was a teacher in her home country, but she was unable to find a job in her field. One day, she attended an orientation for PODER's job training program that acts as a bilingual call center. Deciding to enroll at PODER, she has since excelled in her English studies and received the opportunity to work as a receptionist for PODER. She often helps other students in class with their literacy skills and students feel comfortable asking her questions and receiving feedback. Although she was an excellent reader, one of her greatest challenges was gaining confidence to speak English in public. With help from PODER's volunteer tutors, the woman now feels more confident speaking in English to people she doesn't know after honing her skills in a positive environment.

Salute to Veterans

In this issue of E-News, we are saluting Sharonda Marshall. Ms. Marshall served in the Air Force during the Afghan and Iraq Wars from 1999 to 2005. She was part of the support staff for a Special Ops unit. Her Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/qDFxK4-q3TQ>.

State Library's comprehensive online calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

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