

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY January 2021

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

Jesse White Awards more than \$752,000 in “Back to Books” grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded \$752,835 in “Back to Books” grants to 187 Illinois libraries for fiction and nonfiction books.

Libraries submitted applications specifying the types of books that were needed. Requests included:

- Building collections in women’s studies and sociology.
- New materials in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- Cultural, geographical and travel books.
- Spanish-language fiction and nonfiction books and audiobooks.
- Large-print books for senior citizens on topics related to retirement, such as health, hobbies, finances and technology.
- Biographies and books on local, state, national and world history.
- E-books to support remote learning.
- Award-winning books, such as Caldecott and Illinois Reads titles.
- Do-it-yourself projects, hobbies and craftsmanship subjects.

Awards ranged from \$465 to \$4,900 per library and were made possible by federal Library Services and Technology Act funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Grant information can be found at: <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/back-to-books-grant.html>.

“Letters About Literature in Illinois” – Judges Needed

“Letters About Literature in Illinois” is a statewide reading and writing promotion. Students in grades 4-12 are invited to read a book of their choice, reflect on it, and write a personal letter to its author explaining the impact this work had on them.

Judging is blind and takes place electronically the last few weeks of March. If you are interested or have any questions, contact [Bonnie Matheis](#).

FY2022 SOS Adult Literacy Grant Applications Due March 15

The FY2022 Secretary of State Illinois State Library Adult Literacy Grant Program applications are being offered in advance of the provision of the state budget. The Illinois State Library makes these grant applications available so that award notification may be released when legislative and gubernatorial approval of an FY2022 appropriation is made. All grant applicants are encouraged to listen to the appropriate online presentation(s); Literacy Office staff will go over the FY2022 application and programming requirements.

The grant information session webinars were recorded and are available at the following links:

- [Adult Volunteer Literacy Grant Information Webinar](#)
- [Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant Information Webinar](#)
- [Workplace Skills Enhancement Grant Information Webinar](#)

If you have questions about this grant offering, contact the Literacy Office at 217-785-6921.

FY2022 Adult Literacy Grant Volunteer Reviewers Needed

The Illinois State Library's Literacy Office 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 FY2022 Adult Literacy grant applications in accordance with [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3035.230](#). If you are interested in assisting the State Library in reviewing and 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 the Illinois State Library in reviewing the Adult Literacy 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](#), on or before January 29, 2021.

IPLAR survey now available

The fiscal year 2020-21 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) survey is now open. Each public library is required to submit the IPLAR 60 days after the library's fiscal-year end. The instructions, worksheet and Guide to Virtual Programming are available on the [IPLAR Login Screen](#). The 2021 survey includes the Capital Needs Assessment as part of the biennial requirement stipulated by Public Act 96-0037. There are 15 additional questions this year that are related to the impact of COVID-19. Thirteen COVID-19 questions require yes/no answers, and two questions report on the number of weeks closed or with limited occupancy as a result of the pandemic. For questions about counting Wi-Fi sessions and website visits, check out this link: [Counting Wi-Fi Sessions and Website Visits](#). For more information about the IPLAR survey, please visit the State Library [IPLAR webpage](#).

FY 2021 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant available

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2021. To be eligible for the Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant, a public library shall show that it provides library services that either meet or show progress toward meeting the Illinois Library Standards as, most recently approved by the Illinois Library Association (75 Illinois Compiled Statutes 10/8.1 [1]).

The FY 2021 Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant application is a series of questions to determine the status of the library in relationship to "Serving Our Public 4.0 Standards for Illinois Public Libraries." Review the checklist at the end of each chapter to navigate the application and evaluate if the library meets, is making progress toward meeting, or does not meet each standard.

FY 2021 grant information can be found at:

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html.

If you have questions, contact the Illinois State Library at percap-grant@ilsos.gov or 800-665-5576, ext. 2.

Continuing education resources

Illinois libraries are welcome to take advantage of continuing education activities through WebJunction. The [WebJunction Course Catalog](#) offers an eclectic smorgasbord of library-related topics. Five webinars were offered last quarter. If you would like to watch the recorded webinars, the titles and links are below:

- [Strengthen Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Practice Through Self-Paced Learning](#)
- [Collections and Facilities: Caring for Your Resources During COVID-19](#)
- [One Step at a Time: How Libraries Can Promote Healthy, Thriving, and Livable Communities](#)
- [The Accidental Facilities Manager](#)
- [Who Are We Designing for and Why? Service Design Techniques for Responsive Libraries](#)

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries

[Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries](#) is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that seeks to provide community engagement resources and opportunities specific to the needs of library workers serving small and rural communities. ALA is accepting applications for the grant until March 4, 2021.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for the expanding role of libraries. The initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries and is supported by a private donor.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **Township High School District 214** in **Arlington Heights**. Since childhood, an elderly man never wanted anyone to know that he had difficulty reading and writing. He was unable to write and was reading at a first-grade level when he was referred to Township High School District 214's Read to Learn program. After receiving tutoring, he is now able to write the complete alphabet, read at a third-grade level and sign his name. When his driver's license expired, he felt at his age (81) it would be best to start taking public transportation, but he was apprehensive due to his limited reading ability; however, with the help of his tutor, he has learned to correlate the announcements on the bus with the associated street signs to determine his stop.

Salute to veterans

This issue of E-News is saluting Theodor R. "Ted" Buck as this month's featured veteran. Mr. Buck served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He flew multiple missions in Vietnam and also served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1972, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He earned several service medals, including the Purple Heart and the Legion of Merit. The interview can be found at [Oral History Interview with Theodore "Ted" R. Buck – Illinois Veterans History Project – YouTube](#).

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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