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For More Information Contact:
Pat McGuckin
Rachel Farrer

Jesse White Awards \$11.9 Million to Public Libraries Statewide

SPRINGFIELD—Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded grants totaling \$11.9 million to 620 public libraries statewide. The awarded funds come from the Fiscal Years 2012 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants.

“I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois’ public libraries provide to our communities,” White said. “Our public libraries have never been more important to their patrons, serving almost 12 million people. I truly believe public libraries are cornerstones of our communities, and I am pleased to help them provide funding to serve the public.”

Per Capita Grant funding is authorized under Illinois library law and provides for expenses such as paying for materials, personnel, equipment, electronic access, telecommunications and technology. Equalization Aid Grants help certain public libraries which have a low library tax base ensure a minimum level of funding for library services.

Some of the valuable services public libraries provide include:

- Free Internet access
- Books, magazines, newspapers, CDs and DVDs
- Audiobooks and eBooks
- Interlibrary loan service
- Reference services
- Social media tools
- After school and summer programming for children
- Book clubs
- Multicultural programming and translation services
- Assistance with genealogy
- Arranging special programs and services for senior citizens
- Voter registration
- Meeting rooms for important community events

[\(A list of libraries receiving grants is enclosed.\)](#)

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