

For Immediate Release:
July 2, 2020

For More Information Contact:
Rachel French

Jesse White Awards Nearly \$5.6 Million in Adult Literacy Grants

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White awarded nearly \$5.6 million in Adult Literacy Grants to help students develop and enhance their reading, math, writing and English-language skills.

“An estimated 2.1 million Illinois residents need adult literacy and/or English-language instruction, and I am pleased to provide \$5,596,894 to these 107 local literacy programs that will assist adult students,” White said. “I will continue to do all I can to ensure that all citizens of this state have access to quality literacy programs giving them the skills that put them on the path to lifelong learning.”

More than 13,500 students will be served by adult literacy programs statewide. Nearly 6,000 volunteer tutors provide skills training for students. Adult literacy projects help Illinois adults who read below the 9th-grade level or speak English at a beginning level to improve their reading, writing, math or English as a second language.

The Adult Literacy Program is administered by the Secretary of State’s Illinois State Library Literacy Office and awards grants in three categories:

- **Adult Volunteer Literacy Grants** provide training for volunteers who tutor those ages 17 and older in basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Participating literacy providers include libraries, volunteer tutoring organizations, community-based organizations, community colleges, regional offices of education, schools (individual and public), preschool programs, school districts, domestic violence shelters and correctional facilities.
- **Penny Severns Family Literacy Grants** provide educational services to parents and children to enhance basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Programs must partner with an adult literacy provider, a child-at-risk agency and a public library.
- **The Workplace Skills Enhancement Project** Grants provide onsite instructional services to employees of participating Illinois businesses, enabling them to enhance their basic reading, writing or language skills and to improve their chances for promotion. Eligible employees must read at or below the 9th-grade level. Grantees must match the grant award and provide instructional services to prospective employees. The fiscal agent and submitting agency may be either the educational partner or the business partner.

People interested in becoming volunteer tutors are encouraged to contact the Illinois Adult Learning Hotline at 800-321-9511.

(A list of grant recipients is enclosed.)

###

**Illinois Secretary of State
FY21 Literacy Program Awarded Grants**

CITY	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT TYPE	Amount Awarded
Arlington Heights	Township High School District 214	Family Literacy at the Women's & Children's Center (WCC) with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (AHML)	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Arlington Heights	The Center	The Adult Learning Hotline	Literacy	\$85,000.00
Arlington Heights	Township High School District 214	Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program (RTL) - A Certified Service Enterprise	Community Literacy	\$100,000.00
Aurora	Dominican Literacy Center	Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora	Community Literacy	\$50,000.00
Belleville	Southwestern Illinois College	Project READ Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$36,074.00
Bloomington	Regional Office of Education	STAR Adult Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$75,038.00
Blue Island	Corazon a Corazon	Corazon a Corazon ESL Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$25,000.00
Canton	Spoon River College	Spoon River College Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$54,000.00
Carol Stream	World Relief Refugee Services, DuPage	The World Relief Literacy Project	Community Literacy	\$100,000.00
Carterville	John A. Logan College	JALC AVL Makes a Difference	Community Literacy	\$27,000.00
Centralia	Kaskaskia College	The Reading Link	Community Literacy	\$66,657.00
Champaign	Parkland College	Project READ	Community Literacy	\$99,845.00
Champaign	Parkland College	Parent and Family Learning Lab	Family Literacy Grant	\$32,322.00
Chester	Regional Office of Education	Monroe Randolph Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$36,750.00
Chester	Regional Office of Education	Monroe Randolph Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$29,950.00
Chicago	Touch Gift Foundation	Impacting Lives Through Literacy	Community Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Literacy Volunteers of Illinois, Incorporated	Literacy Volunteers of Illinois - Jump Start at IYC-Chicago	Community Literacy	\$53,190.00
Chicago	Arab American Action Network (AAAN)	Arab American Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Hanul Family Alliance	Speak English with Hanul	Community Literacy	\$42,725.00
Chicago	Albany Park Community Center	Adult Literacy Tutoring Program	Community Literacy	\$99,422.00
Chicago	Vietnamese Association of	Adult Literacy Advancement Program	Community Literacy	\$65,000.00

	Illinois			
Chicago	South-East Asia Center	Building Bridges ESL Program	Community Literacy	\$40,275.00
Chicago	D & H Literacy Center	Read to Dream II	Community Literacy	\$31,968.00
Chicago	Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center	Anixter Center's Jack Ehrlich Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$44,260.00
Chicago	Hana Center	HANA Center Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$44,461.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Adult Volunteer Literacy	Community Literacy	\$42,350.00
Chicago	Chinese Mutual Aid Association	Chinese Mutual Aid Association Immigrant and Refugee Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$44,840.00
Chicago	Jane Addams Resource Corporation	Adult Learners Programs and Services	Community Literacy	\$60,001.00
Chicago	Safer Foundation/PACE Institute	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$59,004.00
Chicago	United For Better Living, Incorporated	Project Learn	Community Literacy	\$30,052.00
Chicago	Literacy Chicago	Literacy Chicago Adult Literacy Program "One Word At A Time"	Community Literacy	\$100,000.00
Chicago	Poder Learning Center	Integrated English: An Immigrant Integration Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$75,000.00
Chicago	Erie Neighborhood House	Community Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$75,000.00
Chicago	Centro Romero	Teaching Literacy, Building Hope	Community Literacy	\$77,500.00
Chicago	Aquinas Literacy Center	Aquinas Literacy Center	Community Literacy	\$53,500.00
Chicago	Howard Area Community Center	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program (AVLP)	Community Literacy	\$64,803.00
Chicago	Instituto del Progreso Latino	Latino Civics and Employment English Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$37,500.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Heartland Human Care Services Adult Volunteer Literacy Project	Community Literacy	\$70,000.00
Chicago	Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Incorporated	Adult Literacy Academy (ALA)	Community Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Family Legacy Foundation	Learning for Life	Community Literacy	\$60,000.00
Chicago	Saint Joseph Services, Incorporated	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services,	The LEAF Early Childhood Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy Grant	\$35,000.00

	Incorporated			
Chicago	Wonder World Social Services NFP	Wonder World Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Families Learning to Teach - West Lawn (FLT-WL)	Family Literacy Grant	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Families Learning to Teach - Little Village (FLT-LV)	Family Literacy Grant	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Chinese Mutual Aid Association	CMAA Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Refugee Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	De La Salle Institute	Tolton Center Little Village Family Learning	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Centro Romero	Centro Romero Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$45,500.00
Chicago	The Learning Center/House of Connections	The Learning Center: Equip, Enrich, and Empower Through Holistic Education	Community Literacy	\$59,200.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services, Incorporated	LEAF School Age Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Heartland Human Care Services and Tyson Literacy Program	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$20,000.00
Chicago	Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition	CCLC - Coalition Coordination Project	Literacy	\$15,000.00
Chicago	Association House of Chicago	Family Literacy Program (FLP)	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Immigrant Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Literacy Works	Community Literacy Program	Literacy	\$25,000.00
Chicago	Instituto del Progreso Latino	Latino Family Literacy	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services, Incorporated	Passages Early Learning Center Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Chicago Heights	Prairie State College	Prairie State College Adult Volunteer Literacy Project	Community Literacy	\$69,695.00
Cicero	Morton College	Project CARE	Community Literacy	\$30,000.00
Crystal Lake	McHenry County College	We Teach One Another	Community Literacy	\$75,000.00
Danville	Danville Area Community College	The Reader's Route	Community Literacy	\$63,345.00
Decatur	Baby TALK	Baby TALK Family Literacy	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Decatur	Richland Community College	Project Read Plus Literacy	Community Literacy	\$100,000.00
Dixon	Sauk Valley Community College	Project VITAL (Volunteers in Teaching Adult Literacy)	Community Literacy	\$60,963.00

Effingham	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation	C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$71,524.00
Elgin	Literacy Connection	Meadowdale Elementary Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Elgin	YWCA of Elgin	ESL Family Literacy, Children 2-5 years	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Elgin	YWCA of Elgin	ESL Family Literacy, Infant/Toddlers	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Elgin	Literacy Connection	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$95,794.00
Fairfield	Frontier Community College	IECC Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$73,150.00
Freeport	Highland Community College	Highland Community College Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$76,825.00
Glen Ellyn	Literacy DuPage	Assessible and Customized Adult Tutoring Program	Community Literacy	\$100,000.00
Godfrey	Lewis and Clark Community College	Alton Area Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Godfrey	Lewis and Clark Community College	Project READ	Community Literacy	\$63,045.00
Joliet	Joliet Junior College	Joliet Junior College Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy Grant	\$31,824.00
Joliet	Joliet Junior College	Joliet Junior College Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$64,084.00
Kankakee	Kankakee Community College	ALIVE Literacy Program (Adult Literacy Initiative Volunteers Expanded)	Community Literacy	\$67,012.00
LaGrange	School and Tutors on Wheels	TEACH Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$67,274.00
Mattoon	Mattoon Public Library	Community Literacy Initiative	Family Literacy Grant	\$34,849.00
Melrose Park	Dominican Literacy Center, Melrose Park	Dominican Literacy Center, Melrose Park	Community Literacy	\$30,000.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education	Smithfield & ROE #33 ESL Program	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$8,682.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education	Knox County Family Literacy	Family Literacy Grant	\$49,490.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education	Regional Office of Education 33 Adult Volunteer Literacy	Community Literacy	\$44,727.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education	Warren County Family Literacy	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Mt. Vernon	Southtown Youth Programs Center	Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant Application	Family Literacy Grant	\$50,000.00
Naperville	Illinois Business Innovation Services	Hearthside Workplace Skills Enhancement Project	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$19,993.00
O'Fallon	Metro East Literacy Project	Living Better Lives Through Literacy	Family Literacy Grant	\$48,177.00

Pekin	YWCA Pekin	Heart of Illinois Adult Literacy Center/YWCA Pekin	Community Literacy	\$65,000.00
Peoria	Neighborhood House	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program (AVL)	Community Literacy	\$51,488.00
Peoria	Regional Office of Education	ROE Adult Literacy	Community Literacy	\$60,597.00
Quincy	John Wood Community College	John Wood Community College Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$50,993.00
River Grove	Triton College	Access to Literacy	Community Literacy	\$50,000.00
Rock Island	Black Hawk College	Adult Volunteer Literacy	Community Literacy	\$44,000.00
Rockford	The Literacy Council	Adult Volunteer Tutor Program	Community Literacy	\$70,690.00
Saint Charles	Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley	One to One English Tutoring for Adults	Community Literacy	\$43,960.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Volunteers In Teaching Adults	Community Literacy	\$98,387.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Workplace Skills Enhancement at LSG Sky Chefs	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$14,203.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Workplace Skills Enhancement at Trim-Tex Dry Wall Products	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$14,757.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Workplace Skills Enhancement at Rivers Casino	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$7,369.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Carl Buddig's "M.E.A.T." (Meaningful Education and Training) Program	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$17,020.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	South Suburban College Adult Volunteer Literacy	Community Literacy	\$45,000.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	"The Sky's the Limit!" English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education Program	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$20,000.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Get "SET" Program (Sterling Employee Training)	Workplace Literacy Grant	\$15,490.00
Springfield	Lincoln Land Community College	LLCC Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Community Literacy	\$64,976.00
Springfield	Fishes & Loaves Outreach	Springfield Literacy Project	Community Literacy	\$92,669.00
Waukegan	Waukegan Public Library	Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutoring Program	Community Literacy	\$76,655.00