

For Immediate Release:

November 21, 2022

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

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

“An estimated two million Illinois residents need adult literacy and/or English-language instruction,” White said. “I am pleased to provide funding for 108 local literacy projects that will allow adult students to help them achieve their utmost potential in the upcoming year. It has been an honor serving as Secretary of State and State Librarian for the last 24 years, helping to ensure that every citizen of this state has access to quality literacy programs.”

A total of 10,589 students are served by adult literacy programs around the state. A total of 4,686 volunteer tutors provide training for students to obtain skills that put them on the path to lifelong learning. Adult literacy projects help Illinois adults who read below the ninth-grade level or speak English at a beginning level to improve their reading, writing, math or use of English as a new 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** — provides training for volunteers who tutor adults 17 years of age and older in basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Participating literacy providers may 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** — provides 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.
- **Workplace Skills Enhancement** — provides onsite instructional services to employees of participating Illinois businesses, enabling them to enhance their basic reading, writing or language skills, and improve their chances for promotion. Eligible employees must read at or below the ninth-grade level. Grantees must match the grant award and may also provide instructional services to prospective employees. The fiscal agent and submitting agency may be either the educational partner or the business partner.

Individuals who are interested in becoming volunteer tutors are encouraged to call or text the Illinois Adult Education Hotline at 800-321-9511.

(A list of grant recipients is enclosed.)

**Secretary of State
FY23 Literacy Program Awarded Grants**

CITY	INSTITUTION	PROJECT TITLE	GRANT TYPE	AMOUNT AWARDED
Arlington Heights	The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning: Adult Learning Resource Center	Illinois Adult Education Hotline	Literacy	\$85,000.00
Arlington Heights	Township High School District 214 Community Education	Family Literacy at the Women's & Children's Center with the Arlington Heights Memorial Library	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Arlington Heights	Township High School District 214 Community Education	Read to Learn Adult Literacy/Volunteer Program (RTL)	Adult Volunteer	\$100,000.00
Aurora	Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora	Dominican Literacy Center	Adult Volunteer	\$50,000.00
Belleville	Southwestern Illinois College	Project READ Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$36,074.00
Bloomington	Regional Office of Education #17, DeWitt/Livingston/Logan/McLean Counties	STAR Adult Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$75,838.00
Blue Island	Corazon a Corazon	Adult ESL Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$25,000.00
Bradley	Kankakee Community College	ALIVE Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$67,324.00
Canton	Spoon River College	Spoon River College Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$54,500.00
Carol Stream	World Relief DuPage/Aurora & Chicago	The World Relief Literacy Project	Adult Volunteer	\$100,000.00
Carterville	John A. Logan College	JALC AVL Makes a Difference	Adult Volunteer	\$29,701.00
Centralia	Kaskaskia College - Adult Education & Literacy Department	The Reading Link	Adult Volunteer	\$65,355.00
Champaign	Parkland College	Parent and Family Learning Lab (PFLL)	Family Literacy	\$33,081.00
Champaign	Parkland College	Project READ	Adult Volunteer	\$94,029.00
Chester	Regional Office of Education #45, Monroe/Randolph Counties	Monroe Randolph Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$30,350.00
Chester	Regional Office of Education #45, Monroe/Randolph Counties	Monroe Randolph Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$36,840.00
Chicago	Aquinas Literacy Center	Aquinas Literacy Center	Adult Volunteer	\$65,100.00
Chicago	Arab American Action Network	Arab American Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services	Asian Human Services Family Outreach Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services	LEAF School Age Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Asian Human Services- Passages Charter School	Passages Early Learning Center Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Association House of Chicago	Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Centro Romero	Centro Romero Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$49,000.00
Chicago	Centro Romero	Teaching Literacy, Building Hope	Adult Volunteer	\$78,500.00
Chicago	Chinese Mutual Aid Association	CMAA Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Chinese Mutual Aid Association	Chinese Mutual Aid Association Immigrant and Refugee Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$54,000.00
Chicago	Erie Neighborhood House	Erie Neighborhood House Community Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$80,000.00

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Chicago	Family Legacy Foundation	Adult Volunteer Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$65,500.00
Chicago	HANA Center	HANA Center Volunteer Tutoring Program	Adult Volunteer	\$55,500.00
Chicago	Hanul Family Alliance	Learn English with Hanul	Adult Volunteer	\$45,080.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Refugee Family Literacy Project	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Heartland Human Care Services	Heartland Human Care Services Adult Volunteer Literacy Project	Adult Volunteer	\$85,000.00
Chicago	Howard Area Community Center	Howard Area Community Center Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$66,289.00
Chicago	Indo-American Center	IAC Adult Volunteer Literacy Program FY23	Adult Volunteer	\$55,500.00
Chicago	Instituto del Progreso Latino	Latino Civics and Employment English Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$40,500.00
Chicago	Instituto del Progreso Latino	Latino Family Literacy	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Jane Addams Resource Corporation	Adult Learners Programs and Services	Adult Volunteer	\$58,677.00
Chicago	Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center	Anixter Center's Jack Ehrlich Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$50,500.00
Chicago	Literacy Chicago	Reading gives you Power	Adult Volunteer	\$100,000.00
Chicago	Literacy Volunteers of Illinois	Jump Start at IYC - St. Charles	Adult Volunteer	\$53,840.00
Chicago	Literacy Works	Community Literacy Program	Literacy	\$40,000.00
Chicago	Olive-Harvey College	Panther Connections	Adult Volunteer	\$35,000.00
Chicago	PODER Learning Center	Integrated English Beyond the Classroom Toward Adult Learner Success	Adult Volunteer	\$80,000.00
Chicago	Safer Foundation/PACE Institute	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$59,004.00
Chicago	ScaleLIT	Coalition Coordination Project	Literacy	\$22,300.00
Chicago	South-East Asia Center	Building Bridges ESL Program	Adult Volunteer	\$42,799.00
Chicago	St. Joseph Services	SJS Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$35,000.00
Chicago	The Learning Center/House of Connections	TLC: Equip, Enrich & Empower through Holistic Education	Adult Volunteer	\$68,230.00
Chicago	Tolton Center/De La Salle Institute	Tolton Center Little Village Family Learning	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago	Touch Gift Foundation	Impacting Lives through Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$40,000.00
Chicago	United for Better Living, Inc.	OPEN DOORS	Adult Volunteer	\$26,535.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Families Learning to Teach - Little Village (FLT-LV)	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Families Learning to Teach - Little Village (FLT-WL)	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Families Learning to Teach - Little Village (FLT-CL)	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Chicago	Universidad Popular	Adult Volunteer Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$42,350.00

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Chicago	University of Illinois at Chicago	Adult Literacy Volunteers with Chicago Early Learning Families	Adult Volunteer	\$21,740.00
Chicago	Vietnamese Association of Illinois	Adult Education Program	Adult Volunteer	\$65,500.00
Chicago	Wonder World Social Services	Wonder World Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Chicago Heights	Prairie State College	Prairie State College Adult Volunteer Literacy Project	Adult Volunteer	\$70,195.00
Cicero	Morton College	Project CARE	Adult Volunteer	\$35,500.00
Crystal Lake	McHenry County College	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$78,525.00
Danville	Danville Area Community College	The Reader's Route	Adult Volunteer	\$63,754.00
Decatur	Baby TALK, Inc.	Baby TALK Macon County Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Decatur	Richland Community College	Project Read Plus Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$70,000.00
Dixon	Sauk Valley Community College	Project VITAL	Adult Volunteer	\$66,467.00
East Moline	Black Hawk College	Adult Volunteer Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$44,000.00
Effingham	C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation	C.E.F.S. Adult Volunteer Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$71,524.00
Elgin	The Literacy Connection	Highland Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Elgin	The Literacy Connection	Washington Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Elgin	The Literacy Connection	Lowrie Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$35,000.00
Elgin	The Literacy Connection	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$86,215.00
Elgin	YWCA Elgin	ESL Family Literacy, Children ages 0-2 years	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Elgin	YWCA Elgin	ESL Family Literacy, Children ages 2-5 years	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Fairfield	IECC-Frontier Community College	IECC Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$75,500.00
Fairview Heights	Puentes de Eperanza	Aprendizaje en Familia: Learning as a Family	Family Literacy	\$49,691.00
Freeport	Highland Community College	Highland Community College Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$62,282.00
Galesburg	Regional Office of Education #33, Henderson/Knox/Mercer/Warren Counties	Knox County Family Literacy	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Godfrey	Lewis and Clark Community College	Alton Area Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Godfrey	Lewis and Clark Community College	Project READ	Adult Volunteer	\$64,606.00
Joliet	Joliet Junior College	Joliet Junior College Family Literacy Program	Family Literacy	\$31,637.00
Joliet	Joliet Junior College	Joliet Junior College Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$65,595.00
La Grange	Tutoring English to Advance Change (TEACH)	TEACH Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$86,850.00
Mattoon	Mattoon Public Library	Community Literacy Initiative	Family Literacy	\$35,543.00
Melrose Park	Dominican Literacy Center, Melrose Park	Dominican Literacy Center	Adult Volunteer	\$30,000.00

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Monmouth	Regional Office of Education #33, Henderson/Knox/Mercer/Warren Counties	Warren County Family Literacy	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education #33, Henderson/Knox/Mercer/Warren Counties	Smithfield & ROE#33 ESL Program	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$10,888.00
Monmouth	Regional Office of Education #33, Henderson/Knox/Mercer/Warren Counties	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$47,849.00
Mount Vernon	Southtown Youth Programs Center	Penny Severns Family Literacy Grant Application	Family Literacy	\$50,000.00
Pekin	YWCA of Pekin	Heart of Illinois Adult Literacy Center	Adult Volunteer	\$70,500.00
Peoria	Neighborhood House	Adult Volunteer Literacy Program (AVL)	Adult Volunteer	\$58,135.00
Peoria	Regional Office of Education #48, Peoria County	ROE Adult Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$55,105.00
Quincy	John Wood Community College	John Wood Community College Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$52,815.00
River Grove	Triton College	EMPOWER (EMPloyers Optimizing Worker's English Readiness): Workplace ESL Program at National Cycle	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$15,000.00
River Grove	Triton College	Access to Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$50,000.00
Rockford	YWCA Literacy Council	Adult Volunteer Tutor Program	Adult Volunteer	\$79,206.00
Roselle	Metropolitan Asian Family Services	Adult Literacy Program (ALA)	Adult Volunteer	\$35,000.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Volunteers In Teaching Adults; VITA Program	Adult Volunteer	\$94,532.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Trim-Tex Inc Workplace Enhancement Grant	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$7,181.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Cozzini Bros. Workplace Enhancement Grant	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$7,879.00
Skokie	Oakton Community College	Rivers Casino Workplace Skills Enhancement	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$15,682.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	South Suburban College Adult Volunteer Literacy	Adult Volunteer	\$45,500.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Get SET Program (Sterling Employee Training)	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$12,341.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Carl Buddig and Company – ESL Program	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$12,916.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Nuance Solution, Inc. - Employee Engagement Initiative	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$16,555.00
South Holland	South Suburban College	Skyline Furniture Manufacturing - English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education Program	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$18,466.00
Springfield	Fishes & Loaves Outreach Ministries	Springfield Literacy Project	Adult Volunteer	\$67,000.00
Springfield	Lincoln Land Community College	LLCC Adult Volunteer Literacy Program	Adult Volunteer	\$65,031.00

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St. Charles	Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley	One to One English Tutoring for Adults	Adult Volunteer	\$43,960.00
Urbana	Urbana Adult Education Center	Salt and Light & UAEC Work Skills Enhancement Program	Workplace Skills Enhancement	\$8,500.00
Waukegan	Waukegan Public Library	Adult Literacy and ESL Tutoring Program	Adult Volunteer	\$50,300.00
Wheaton	Literacy DuPage	Accessible and Customized Adult Literacy Tutoring	Adult Volunteer	\$100,000.00