Secretary of State Jesse White recently awarded over $2 million to 49 literacy projects in Illinois. These projects have 116 service locations in Cook County, including the city of Chicago, and 465 service locations throughout the rest of the state. More than 7,000 individuals are to be served in 35 Illinois counties. The descriptions of those awards are as follows:

Adult Volunteer Literacy – $1,431,352 awarded to 29 projects to provide training for volunteers who tutor adults over age 17 who read, write, compute or comprehend below the ninth-grade level or score below SPL 7 for speakers of other languages.

Penny Severns Family Literacy – $567,000 awarded to 15 projects that provide parents and children – both individually and together – instructional services to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Grants are awarded to partnerships that include an adult literacy provider, a public library and a child-at-risk organization.

Workplace Skills Enhancement – $51,648 awarded to four businesses that offer employees on-site instructional services to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills, maintain their employment and increase their eligibility for promotion. Grants are matched by the businesses at least one-to-one.

In this issue of Illinois Literacy, I am pleased to announce the funding of literacy projects throughout the state that will assist individuals with reading, writing, comprehension, math or learning the English language. I encourage you to review the list of funded projects via the Illinois State Library’s website under literacy. Identify your local literacy program and make a commitment to support that program in some way in the upcoming year.

I am proud to recognize the story of a volunteer who admirably served our country in the military and now devotes her time helping individuals improve themselves through learning. The success of my office’s literacy program relies on these kind and caring individuals and we owe them our deepest gratitude for the life-changing time they contribute to those who need their help. It is exciting to be part of a program that is making such a difference in the lives of Illinois residents.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers who make this program a success.

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Librarian

The Illinois Literacy Foundation has worked to support literacy programs throughout the state since 1999. The foundation is committed to ensuring that every Illinoisan has the reading skills to achieve the individual’s utmost potential. The current strategy is focused on the development of reading readiness for preschool children. Recent efforts include a revamped website, and a Facebook page. Upcoming events include a luncheon to coincide with the American Library Association Convention in June 2017. Please “Like” the foundation’s page on Facebook and forward posts to spread the word about the message of the organization.
Electronic literacy resource list now available

Electronic literacy resource list now available
The State Library’s Literacy Office has compiled a resource list for adult literacy practitioners who are responsible for developing, planning and implementing literacy services for adult learners. It also includes family literacy programs that collaborate with businesses to educate their employees.

The following are examples of selections featured on the list:

Adult Learners and Technology: How to Deliver Effective Instruction and Overcome Barriers to Learning — http://www.umsl.edu/~wilmarthp/modla-links-2011/Adult-Learners-And-Technology.pdf

This paper outlines the factors that cause “technophobia” or computer anxiety in adult learners. It suggests several methods of coping with anxiety so that it does not cripple the adult learner. By preparing them to utilize the technology involved in a non-threatening context, learners can achieve success that is critical to foster and promote positive attitudes in adults toward technology and learning.

The Effect of Family Literacy Interventions on Children’s Acquisition of Reading — https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/lt_interventions.pdf

This report describes strategies proven to work by the most rigorous scientific research available on the teaching of reading. The goal was to review the scientific literature on parent involvement in the acquisition of literacy from kindergarten to third grade.


This report draws on the experience of 20 states with extensive experience in workforce and workplace education programming. A key element is their successful collaborations with local and state businesses and chambers of commerce.

Fiscal year 2016 final reports submitted by programs funded through the State Library Literacy Office revealed the following statistics:

Adult Volunteer Literacy
- 6,178 – Adult learners served
- 40 – Average age of adult learner
- 88 percent – Female adults
- 80 percent – Adult learners employed
- 59 percent – Adult learners studying English as a Second Language (ESL)
- 3,216 – Volunteers serving adult learners
- 95 – Average age of volunteer tutor

Penny Severs Family Literacy
- 630 – Adult learners served
- 93 percent – Female adults
- 75 percent – Adult learners studying ESL
- 30 – Average age of adult learner
- 45 percent – Obtained a library card
- 882 – Children served
- 4.5 – Average age of child

Workplace Skills Enhancement
- 176 – Employees assessed and/or instructed
- 46.5 percent – Female
- 30 – Average age of employee
- 84.6 percent – Employees studied ESL

Correctional Facilities
For incarcerated adults, participating in literacy tutoring at correctional facilities may open a door to education. To participate in the program, participants must score below the ninth-grade reading or math level or speak limited English.

- 21 local correctional facilities, one state facility and one federal facility provided literacy services
- 110 incarcerated adults qualified and became students
- 37 tutors from local communities tutored in correctional facilities

Libraries as Partners
- 1,041 adult learners obtained a library card
- 220 public libraries offer the library facility as a tutoring site
- 205 public libraries refer prospective students and volunteer tutors to literacy programs
- 122 public libraries house a high-interest/low-vocabulary reading collection
- 48 public libraries provided overhead for literacy programs that included office space, telephone and printing for advertising
Electronic literacy resource list now available

The State Library's Literacy Office has compiled a resource list for adult literacy practitioners who are responsible for developing, planning and implementing literacy services for adult learners. It also includes family literacy programs that collaborate with businesses to educate their employees. The list is categorized by theme and can be accessed through the following link at: http://www.cyberedillinois.com/departments/library/literacy/pdf/literacy_resource_list.pdf.

The following resources are examples of selections featured on the list:

## Adult Learners and Technology: How to Deliver Effective Instruction and Overcome Barriers to Learning


This paper outlines the factors that cause "technophobia" or computer anxiety in adult learners. It suggests several methods of coping with anxiety so that it does not cripple the adult learner. By preparing them to utilize the technology involved in a non-threatening context, learners can achieve success that is critical to foster and promote positive attitudes in adults toward technology and learning.

## The Effect of Family Literacy Interventions on Children's Acquisition of Reading


This report describes strategies proven to work by the most rigorous scientific research available on the teaching of reading. The goal was to review the scientific literature on parent involvement in the acquisition of literacy from kindergarten to third grade.

## Doing Business Together: Adult Education and Business Partnering to Build a Qualified Workforce


This report explores the experience of 20 states with extensive experience in workforce and workplace education programming. A key element is their successful collaborations with local and state businesses and chambers of commerce.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Volunteer Literacy</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>6,175 – Adult learners served</td>
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<tr>
<td>68 percent – Female adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 percent – Adult learners employed</td>
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</tr>
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## Prison Correctional Facilities

- 41 incarcerated adults participated in literacy tutoring at correctional facilities that offered a library or adult education services
- 882 – Children served
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- 93 percent – Female adults
- 75 percent – Adult learners studying ESL
- 30 – Average age of adult learner
- 45 percent – Obtained a library card
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## ON THE HORIZON

### Volunteer Tutor Spotlight

Rosa Solano, volunteer tutor at Universidad Popular.

### FY16 Illinois Literacy program statistics

- 46.5 percent – Female
- 38 – Average age of employee
- 84.6 percent – Employees studied ESL

### Correctional Facilities

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