

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Jesse White Awards Over \$9 Million in Construction Grants to Eight Public Libraries**

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded more than \$9 million in construction grants to libraries in Jerseyville, Highwood, Nauvoo, East St. Louis, Carthage, Newark, Mount Carroll and Vandalia. The grants, which are for permanent capital improvements to public libraries, are funded through the Public Library Construction Act Grant Program that received an appropriation as part of the \$45 billion capital plan passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the governor in 2019.

“I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois’ public libraries provide to our communities,” said White. “Our public libraries have never been more important to their patrons and we have to ensure they are able to be open and accessible to everyone.”

The following libraries have met the criteria for local cost share and have been awarded a grant:

- **Carthage Public Library District** – \$1,258,862. The award will be used to construct a new 10,000-square-foot library.
- **Charles B. Phillips Public Library District, Newark** – \$316,225. The award will be used for the addition of a program/meeting room to the existing library building.
- **East St. Louis Public Library** – \$84,150. The award will be used for a multi-purpose room addition to the existing library building.
- **Evans Public Library District, Vandalia** – \$3,425,888. The award will be used to construct a new 15,000-square-foot library.
- **Highwood Public Library** – \$671,414. The award will be used on a remodeling and renovation project to the existing library building.
- **Jerseyville Public Library** – \$1,671,143. The award will be used for a 13,800-square-foot addition, along with the remodel and renovation of areas in the 119-year-old library building.
- **Mount Carroll District Library** – \$1,157,245. The award will be used for a 4,000-square-foot addition and a remodel and renovation of the 114-year-old library building.
- **Nauvoo Public Library** - \$504,590. The award will be used to construct a new 3,800-square-foot library.

The amount awarded to each library is a percentage of the total cost of the project and is determined by a formula established in the legislation that created the program. Remaining project costs are a local responsibility. Applications for the grant program are accepted annually and are due by April 15. Information concerning the Illinois State Library’s Public Library Construction Act Grant Program can be found at [ilsos.gov/departments/library/grants/publib\\_construction.html](https://ilsos.gov/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html).