

Secretary of State Jesse White
Illinois State Library Literacy Office
Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701
217-785-6921/ fax: 785-6927

**FY2008
PENNY SEVERNS'
SUMMER FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

December 2007

We are seeking applications from libraries and adult literacy agencies to provide summertime family literacy activities for **low-literate parents and their children**. The resources to fund this initiative were made possible by legislation supporting family reading in Illinois and named in honor of the late Senator Penny Severns.

Purpose:

The purpose of this grant program is to improve the basic reading, writing, math and/or language skills of low literate adults and their children during the summer months.

Eligible participants:

This grant program is intended for low literate adults and their children, participating together. While this funding is not appropriate to provide for the public library's summer reading program, it is appropriate to be used to offer a targeted summer reading program to low-literate families. If the application describes the summer reading program at the library, be sure to explain how the program will provide services to low literate families and how it will expand the services that would normally be provided in summer reading programs.

What we want to see in grant applications:

- The ability of the grant applicant to enroll low-literate families in the project
- The ability of the grant applicant to provide four components in the project:
 - reading enrichment for low literacy adults
 - reading enrichment for the children of those adults
 - interactive, literacy-based, activities in which the parents and children learn together
 - related library activities for the families' participation

Grants of up to \$4,800 will be awarded. Award winners will receive an Assurance Agreement and copies of the two report forms prior to issuance of any award. Financial and narrative reporting is required. Activities undertaken for this grant program are to be in addition to previously scheduled programming. If you are currently funded through any Secretary of State/Illinois State Library/Literacy Office program, these dollars must be used to fund additional activities not already covered through your grants.

Attached is the application form that must be completed and **received in the Illinois State Library Literacy Office, Room 422, 300 S. Second Str., Springfield by 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 1, 2008.**

Questions about the program may be directed to the staff at the Literacy Office at the number above.

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PROGRAM GLOSSARY

ADULT LEARNERS OR LOW LITERATE ADULTS:

Adults who have limited reading, writing and/or English language skills, who are the primary caregivers of a child or children and who live with the child(ren).

EXPERIENTIAL, ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

Activities that provide active, hands-on learning.

FOCUSED USE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Introducing and assisting low literate participants to use libraries, museums, parks, zoos, theatres and other community resources, institutions and programs with which they may be unfamiliar.

ADULT LITERACY ENRICHMENT:

Activities that will improve reading, writing, math and English-language skills of low-literate adults.

LOW-LITERATE or AT-RISK FAMILIES:

Parents and their children whose minimal skills in reading, writing, computation, comprehension and English-language communication reduce the effectiveness of their functioning in their lives.

PARENT-AND-CHILD TOGETHER INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES (PACT):

Teaching and learning activities in which parents and children interact together while enhancing their literacy and reading skills and having fun learning together.

PROGRAM INTENSITY:

The frequency (how often) and the length (how many hours) of program activities.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION:

The at-risk, low-literate population will be unable to participate unless the project provides or identifies transportation and childcare.