

State Library/LITERACY OFFICE  
300 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217/785-6921 ofc  
217/785-6927 fax

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>

(click on Departments, Illinois State Library, Who We Are, ISL Departments, then Literacy)

### NETWORK NOTES for SOS Literacy Grantees: MARCH 2009

#### FY2009 GRANTEE INFORMATION:

RFP's for 2010 are available for downloading online at <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/grantinfo.htm>. The due date is April 15, 2009. **All applications must be postmarked or have a receipt from a commercial carrier dated on or before that date or they will not be accepted.**

April 15, 2009 - The third quarter financial report is due in Springfield on or before that day.

The Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy Grant applications were reviewed and 54 programs totaling \$249,999 were recommended for funding. The award letters from Secretary White were mailed last week.

Review your budget! The last date for a Budget Change Amendment is no later than May 1. See the Financial Management and Report Instructions on the web at <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/grantinfo.htm> for more information. **Over expenditures on any one line item in excess of 10% may incur a penalty after the final financial reports are submitted. If you need our assistance in planning your budget amendment, please call our office before May 1.**

**USE ALL OF YOUR BUDGETED FUNDS. Under expended funds that are returned to the Secretary of State are NOT then made available for next year's literacy projects. In fact, in that case, it looks as if our adult literacy grant projects did not need all of the funding they requested.**

#### FY2010 ADULT LITERACY GRANT INFORMATION SESSIONS AVAILABLE

The grant information sessions were recorded and are available as audio recordings online.

The Adult Volunteer Literacy recording is available at:

[http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il\\_ISL\\_2009\\_0130\\_1532\\_12](http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il_ISL_2009_0130_1532_12)

You may access the Family Literacy grant information session at:

[http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il\\_ISL\\_2009\\_0130\\_1330\\_27](http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il_ISL_2009_0130_1330_27)

The Workplace Skills Enhancement session is located at:

[http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il\\_ISL\\_2009\\_0202\\_1402\\_21](http://67.202.209.252/launcher.cgi?room=il_ISL_2009_0202_1402_21)

If you have not already run the WIMBA set up wizard, you will have to do that first before clicking on "Participant Login". If you have already run the set up wizard, click on "Participant Login". Then type in your name (any format will be accepted) and click on "Enter". This will take you to the Archive Room and just click "Archive Start" to run the session.

**NETWORK NOTES CALENDAR:** <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/calend.htm>

The calendar is available on line at the URL listed above. Please review the calendar carefully for events, due dates and local meeting information of interest to SOS adult literacy grantees. Please inform Diane Manning at [dmanning@ilsos.net](mailto:dmanning@ilsos.net) of meetings or events you want included on this calendar.

#### **THE CHANGE AGENT: ISSUE ON HEALTH**

*The Change Agent's* new issue "Health - The Big Picture" contains 56 pages of short articles, illustrations, cartoons, math lessons, and quizzes. Explore students' experiences dealing with health challenges and their individual and community-based responses to those challenges. Learn about the U.S. health insurance industry, student-recommended home remedies, students' experiences of health disparities, the connection between mental and physical health, and much more. Featuring ready-to-use lesson plans, personal stories, and lots of graphics. Access it at <http://nelrc.org/changeagent/>

#### **HOME SAFETY INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

The Home Safety Council® (HSC) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing home related injuries that result in nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits on average each year. Through national programs, partnerships and the support of volunteers, HSC educates people of all ages about home safety. HSC provides educational resources to help educate and empower families to take actions that will increase the safety of their homes. At their web site you will find home safety tips, checklists and information about home fire safety, falls prevention, poison prevention, water safety, child safety, disaster preparedness as well as many other home safety topics in both English and Spanish. Access their information at <http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.aspx> HSC also offers materials for written at a low literacy level and highly illustrated at this site - [http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expert\\_network/en\\_literacy\\_w010.aspx](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/expert_network/en_literacy_w010.aspx) You may download the Home Safety Literacy Project materials free in English or Spanish.

#### **BOOKS FOR BABIES - MATCHING GRANTS**

In partnership with Nordstrom, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), will award 20 grants for \$500 each to match \$1,000 raised by selected Friends of the Library groups, women's groups, libraries and other non-profit organizations for purchasing Books for Babies kits from ALTAFF. Books for Babies is a national literacy program that acquaints parents of newborns with the important role they play in the development of their children. Parents are presented with a Books for Babies kit containing a board book for baby, baby's first library card and a variety of brochures with reading tips and early literacy information from nationally recognized educational organizations. Organizations such as Friends of the Library groups, Women's Clubs and Junior Leagues purchase Books for Babies packets.

Groups often supplement the packets with information about local resources, including library locations and contact information. Ten grants will be awarded in each of two cycles. The deadline for the first round of grants is April 1. An additional 10 matching grants will be awarded in October with an application deadline of Oct. 1. Additional information and the application form can be found online at [www.folusa.org/outreach/bfbgrants.php](http://www.folusa.org/outreach/bfbgrants.php) Any type of non-profit organization with a current program or interested in starting a Books for Babies program is encouraged to apply.

### **MEDIA LIBRARY OF TEACHING SKILLS**

The Media Library of Teaching Skills (MLoTS) at <http://mlots.org> is a free web-based video library of short classroom or tutoring adult literacy education (including ESL/ESOL) videos. The library was created to enable adult education teachers to have a "video window" on other adult education teachers' classes. Each MLoTS-made video is based on state content standards and/or research, theory or best practices. There is also an MLoTS page with links to adult education videos made by others, as MLoTS is intended as the "go to" library for adult literacy education classroom videos. In October 2008, the MLoTS team video recorded a workshop at the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education Conference, Network08. We showed two classroom videos (numeracy and ESOL) and we video recorded a small group of teachers discussing the videos. You will find these two classroom videos, and the teacher discussion videos, at: ESOL/ESL Video: Food Vocabulary and Verb Tenses <http://mlots.org/lorrie/lorriepage.html> Numeracy/Mathematics Video: Ratio and Proportion <http://mlots.org/abby/abypage.html>:

### **PERSISTENCE IN ADULT EDUCATION**

The New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC) has just published the findings of action research done by 18 New England adult education programs that investigated persistence strategies in their varied contexts over the course of a semester. This report of the New England Adult Learner Persistence Project can be found at <http://nelrc.org/persist/report09.pdf> In addition to describing the specific strategies and outcomes that resulted in each program, the researchers concluded that persistence can be improved by addressing key adult needs, such as the need to feel competent or the need for a sense of community. To see other work being done at NELRC, see <http://www.nelrc.org/expertise/index.html>

### **AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 - STIMULUS BILL**

The White House recently released state-by-state estimates of employment numbers by Congressional district showing the expected employment impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 measured by jobs created or saved. These new estimates may be helpful for states to use in targeting areas of job growth and in linking potential job growth with basic literacy or English skills training residents will need for the work projected. General state estimates also are available. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/79/70/7970.pdf>

#### **JOB IMPACT BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Recovery\\_Act\\_congressional\\_district\\_jobs\\_2-17.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Recovery_Act_congressional_district_jobs_2-17.pdf)

State by State Estimates

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/White\\_House\\_Releases\\_Additional\\_State1.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/White_House_Releases_Additional_State1.pdf)

### **HOW ADULT EDUCATION CAN SUPPORT ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Cheryl L. Keenan, director of Office of Vocational and Adult Education's Division of Adult Education and Literacy, testified Feb. 26 before the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness on reauthorization of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). Keenan emphasized the key role adult education can play in America's economic recovery because it provides basic literacy skills that are critical for gaining employment that provides family-supporting wages.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/ae-testimony-ovae-090224.pdf>

### **WORKPLACE CURRICULUM - IMMIGRANTS WORKING IN HOTELS**

"Hotel T.E.A.C.H. Project Curriculum" This website contains a curriculum to address the needs of immigrant adults employed in "back of the house" jobs in hotels.

[http://www.laguardia.edu/ciet/workforce\\_TEACH\\_curriculum.aspx](http://www.laguardia.edu/ciet/workforce_TEACH_curriculum.aspx)

### **GRANT WRITING - RECENT STATISTICS**

We have been getting a lot of calls about our comment that we wanted to see more recent statistics than the 2000 Census (now over 9 years old) cited in the upcoming grant applications. Here are some web sites that have more recent data on the educational, economic and demographic status of adult learners. These sites contain information in policy briefs, research papers and publications. As a grant writer, you will have to search across the pages to find applicable information. Another great way to get local statistics is to go to your local reference librarian with the specific data you need documented. Despite the length of this list, there are many other places to get statistical information you can use.

NWU's Poverty, Race and Inequality Program

<http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/research/respoverty1.html>

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

<http://www.cael.org/adultlearninginfocus.htm>

To access CAEL's profile of IL, click "Individual state profiles and downloadable data," then click IL

Demographic and sociological information by neighborhood in Cgo.

<http://www.wildonions.org/NeighborhoodsMap.htm>

Census Scope

<http://www.censuscope.org/>

Illinois Quick Facts (by county and city)

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17000.html>

National Center for Educational statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

From Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights:

2008 Illinois Report on Poverty

<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/advocacy/reports/2008-report-on-illinois-poverty.html>

2008 Chicago area snapshot on poverty

<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/advocacy/reports/2008-chicago-area-snapshot-on.html>

A Community perspective on non-profit services for Latinos and community needs (7-2007)

<http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/advocacy/reports/opportunitiesandchallenges.pdf>

From Voices for Illinois Children: "Kids Count 2008"

[http://voices4kids.org/library/KC08\\_betterlives.html](http://voices4kids.org/library/KC08_betterlives.html)

ICCB data 2006

[http://eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/29/86/2f.pdf](http://eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/29/86/2f.pdf)

Indirect County and State Estimates of the percentage of Adults at the Lowest Literacy Level for 1992 and 2003 (using the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy)

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2009482>

This site also includes an interactive web tool, which shows the percentage of adults lacking Basic Prose Literacy Skills for all states and counties. In addition to allowing users to view adult literacy percentages for any given state, the web tool also allows for comparisons to be made between two states, two counties in the same state, two counties in different states, across years for a state, and across years for a county.

The Interactive Web Tool can be accessed at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/estimates/index.aspx>

National Assessment of Adult Literacy

<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/index.asp>

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/laus/lausmenu.htm>

Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

<http://www.iira.org/data/data.asp>

A Statistical Report on Hispanics at Mid Decade

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/middecade/>

Dropout Rates in the United States 2001

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/dropout2001/>

Community Information by Zip Code (Best for California, but includes national sites also)

<http://library.csun.edu/mfinley/zipstats.html>

## **REGISTER FOR THE CHICAGO AREA TUTOR'S ROUND TABLE**

Literacy Works will be hosting their 3rd Annual Tutor Roundtable on Thursday, April 23, from 6:30-8:30 pm at Corazon a Corazon, 8235 S. South Shore Drive, 2nd fl., Chicago.

This event brings tutors from member agencies together to share their enthusiasm, experience and ideas. There will be breakout sessions on teaching ESL, ABE, and GED. There will also be a special Coordinators Table for you to share ideas, resources, and challenges with your professional peers. Free to tutors and coordinators from Literacy Works member agencies. Questions? Please contact Betsy Rubin at [betsy@litworks.org](mailto:betsy@litworks.org)

## **EVIDENCE BASED READING INSTRUCTION (EBRI) SITE**

This is the website for the public information on the Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) project <http://www.startoolkit.org> On the site there are multiple links to resources about teaching adults to read and briefs that explore the programmatic

considerations that need to be taken into account to support evidence-based reading instruction. In addition, there are webcasts featuring Cheryl Keenan and researchers discussing STAR and the importance of EBRI.

### **FAMILY LITERACY READING ACTIVITIES**

Reading Rockets (RR) has created six do-it-yourself, downloadable Family Literacy Bags that contain a paired set of theme-based fiction and nonfiction books and related interactive activities that kids bring home from school to share with their family. The bags are appropriate for a kindergarten or first grade listening level to encourage some hands-on fun and learning. Just assemble everything into a two-gallon zip top bag, and send home with your students. What goes into each literacy bag? 1. A parent information sheet with an introductory note that you can personalize, 2. instructions about how to use the packet, and tips for sharing fiction and nonfiction books with children, 3. two books: one fiction and one nonfiction, selected by Reading Rockets for high quality and wide availability in school libraries, 4. a Creativity Activity: a hands-on craft project, 5. An Imagination Activity: encourages imaginative play, writing, or drawing, 6. a Get Real Activity: focuses on real-world experiences for parent and child, and, 7. a bookmark that lists the featured titles and alternative titles. Access at this site <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/27935>

### **LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING MATERIALS?**

With the unveiling of the Secretary of State On-Line Tutor Training earlier this year, many programs are rethinking how they offer tutor training. As you consider this issue, please be aware that we have a resource bin devoted to Volunteer Training. This bin contains numerous books on this topic; additionally, many of our funded projects have submitted their training curriculum to us to share in this resource bin. Reserve Bin #13 Volunteer Training and get ideas from your peers regarding training tips. The Literacy Office has 27 different resource bins available to be checked out and utilized by any agency involved in the Illinois literacy effort. A complete list of resource bins is available at <http://literacy.kent.edu/illinois/litresource1.pdf>. To borrow a resource bin, please contact Jo Anne Hughes at the SOS Literacy Office by calling 800.665.5576, #3 or email her at [jhughes@ilsos.net](mailto:jhughes@ilsos.net). Resource bins are delivered to you at your local public library via the Interlibrary Delivery System that is operated by the Illinois State Library.

### **FINANCIAL LITERACY RESOURCE**

The Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center announces the publication of an online curriculum for teaching financial literacy to adult ESOL students that can be used and adapted to fit a wide range of learning situations. There are lessons for literacy level students and more advanced students learning English. *Money Talks* is a comprehensive resource that has complete lessons with teachers' notes, handouts, and picture stories. There is a needs analysis as well as a form for post assessment to evaluate a student's growth in financial awareness and skill at managing money wisely. Access it at <http://moneytalks.valrc.org/> Considering the current economic crisis, this curriculum is very timely. Everyone can benefit from good financial planning that starts with a budget. After conducting a very practical needs analysis in which the learners reflect on their own financial practices and future dreams and goals (literacy level students can do this, too), teachers can follow a flowchart of classroom lessons and activities geared towards the

needs of your students. The picture stories that accompany each lesson were specifically created for the toolkit. *Money Talks* is a project of the Literacy Institute and the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, Northern Shenandoah Valley Adult Education, and Prince William County Public Schools in Virginia.