



## Illinois Heartland Library System

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MEMO TO: IHLS Board of Directors  
FROM: Leslie M. Bednar  
DATE: November 18, 2024  
RE: Grants for IHLS

We would like to share information regarding grants for our organization and the following is provided to give the board a more complete picture of our reliance on grant support. IHLS is primarily funded by an operational grant from the Illinois State Library/Illinois Secretary of State through an annual System Area and Per Capita Grant (SAPG). The current SAPG allocation and three additional special revenue grants from the same source are outlined below:

<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>FY2025 Award</b>
System Area and Per Capita Grant	\$3,919,852.00
Cataloging Maintenance Center Grant	\$709,016.00
OCLC Billing Grant	\$175,573.00
Library Trustee Training Grant	\$166,321.00

IHLS works with a grants professional and library consultant to provide additional services not covered by the above opportunities. We have a formal agreement with the individual, and all terms of the contract are being met. Primary responsibilities include:

- Grant prospect research and advice regarding funding opportunities relevant to the organization
- Work with our staff regarding grant deadlines, and collection of data, materials, and information necessary for strong proposals
- Prepare proposals for submission within the deadlines
- Routine sharing of grant opportunities for IHLS member libraries shared through our [grants database](#)
- Participation in meetings with our staff to discuss the merits and feasibility of specific proposals

As our second grants professional, the consultant brings in-depth knowledge of IHLS to this work which is quite valuable. She has very good working relationships with key staff and understands our goals and objectives. Regarding applications on behalf of IHLS, the consultant works in the competitive grants space. The level of preparation for these opportunities is quite involved and intensive. We often get through several phases of preparation for a specific opportunity and then determine it is not a good fit for our organization for a variety of reasons. (In comparison, the annual applications for state grants are formulaic.)

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IMAGINING TOMORROW ~ DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY!

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The following grants have been applied for on our behalf. To date, we have been awarded the Illinois Humanities opportunity:

- Ameren: supporting a program to reduce the cost of non-resident access for patrons
- Awesome Foundation: a Library of Things mobile collection
- Dreyfus Foundation: program to reduce the cost of non-resident access, library of things and mobile outreach program
- EBSCO: solar roof panels for the Edwardsville office
- Haas Foundation: program to reduce the cost of non-resident access
- Illinois Humanities: Mobile Memory Lab
- National Historical Publications and Records Commission: significant expansion of Mobile Memory Lab services
- WalMart: supporting various IHLS and member initiatives

We utilize the services of a consultant to supplement the efforts of our staff. As an under-resourced organization, we do not have the luxury of a staff member whose sole focus is researching grants for our members or consulting, evaluating, drafting, and submitting applications for IHLS. Annually, we meet to determine the focus of grant work for our operations and projects, and this year, we have several priorities: barcoding equipment, broadband, and the Mobile Memory Lab.

Thank you.