



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2025

Illinois Library Association

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The Illinois Library Association, the iREAD Committee, and the ILA Small and Rural Libraries (SARL) Forum are delighted to announce the recipients of the 2026 iREAD Summer Reading Grant for ILA Small and Rural Libraries!

Congratulations to:

Atlanta Public Library

Bertolet Memorial Library

Dolton Public Library

Greig Memorial Library

Highwood Public Library

Kaneville Public Library

Martinsville Public Library

Odell Public Library

Ogden Rose Public Library

Red Bud Public Library

Shawneetown Public Library

Sparta Public Library

Towanda Public Library

White Hall Township Library

The iREAD Summer Reading Grant for Small and Rural Libraries is a dedicated funding initiative designed to support the implementation and enhancement of summer reading programs in small and rural libraries in Illinois. The grant is geared towards ILA small and rural libraries that represent underserved communities and libraries that have a financial need to conduct an engaging summer reading program.

This is the grant's second year in effect, and SARL was delighted to receive dozens of applications from eligible libraries in Illinois. This year, four additional libraries received funding due to a donation from Wintrust Government Funds. Each of the winners listed above will be awarded a \$250 grant to be redeemed in the iREAD store to offset the costs of their summer reading program for the summer of 2026.

About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization representing Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter of the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, including public, academic, school, and special libraries, librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.