

## Lee Ann Fisher

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**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 2:37 PM  
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**Subject:** An important announcement to Illinois public libraries from Anne Craig, Director, Illinois State Library

August 10, 2011

Dear Illinois Public Library Director:

The Illinois Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of Public Act 96-37. This ruling has paved the way for the Illinois State Library to renew the process of implementing the \$50 million Public Library Construction Act Grant Program (30 ILCS 767) funded through the Build Illinois Bond Fund.

Included in the law's requirements is a provision requiring the Secretary of State and the Illinois State Library to file with the General Assembly a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs of all public libraries every two years. The first such report was filed with the General Assembly in December, 2009. To continue fulfilling our obligation under this law, we must submit a second report prior to January 1, 2012. In order to compile the assessment report, I am requesting that **each** Illinois public library complete and submit the **one-page online Capital Needs Assessment Survey by Friday, September 30, 2011, even if no capital improvements are needed**. We recommend that you have Acrobat 8.1 or higher (available for free download at: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftplD=3661>) installed on your computer to complete the survey.

We are using only an electronic format for completion of the survey to facilitate the collection and retention of data for future use.

It is important that **all** public libraries respond to this survey so that we can convey the need for capital improvements in our public libraries to the General Assembly and the public.

The proposed Administrative Rules that govern the program have been submitted to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for approval. The rules state that in those cases where libraries that are applying for a grant award are tied in their priority ranking, **additional points may be awarded to those libraries that have completed and submitted the Capitol Needs Assessment**.

This exciting new library construction program is in addition to, and separate from, the Secretary of State's annual Live and Learn Library Construction Grant Program.

Information regarding both of these public library construction grant programs is distributed **only** in the Illinois State Library weekly electronic newsletter. If you are not registered to receive our electronic newsletter, please subscribe here: <http://community.icontact.com/p/islannounce/newsletters/e-news>.

Please click here to access, complete and submit the survey:  
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what we do/pdfs/isl cnas.pdf>

If you have any questions or difficulty accessing, completing and/or submitting the survey, please contact Jason O'Dell at 312-814-4474, Mark Shaffer at 217-524-4901, or H. Neil Kelley at 217-782-1891.

Sincerely,

Anne Craig  
Director  
Illinois State Library

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