The Illinois State Library’s Diversity Program, a division of the Library Development Group, was created in 2003 to assist the Illinois library community in developing cultural and minority diversity initiatives. The Diversity Program staff works to:

- Explore cultural diasporas through library technology, the Internet, resources and programs;
- Train library staff in developing diversity competencies and principles for libraries;
- Partner with the Illinois library community in developing venues to serve the many faces of diversity through grant initiatives;
- Promote events that commemorate heritage, multicultures and ethnic activities (i.e., Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Dia de Muertos, etc.);
- Engaging writers, speakers, Illinois artisans and exhibits to share cultural expressions;
- Pioneer studies that examine services and access for the under-served and minorities;
- Provide workshops related to minority demographics;
- Attend educational forums that provide current information related to diversity in libraries;
- Employ a culturally diverse library workforce through a diversity recruitment and mentoring conference;
- Explore and share ethnic library services, benefits and best practices;
- Connect and encourage culturally diverse communities to use libraries;
- Offer information on scholastic grants and awards for minorities seeking library careers;
- Partner with minority and special interest librarians to develop leaders in the library community.

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