

This is a proposal for federal funds under the Library Services and Reading Act, Title I, to support a program for the development of library services in a disadvantaged area located in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. This area has a population of about 12,000 people almost all of whom are Black. It is an area in which the Champaign and Urbana Public Libraries have failed over a long period of time to extend library services.

"A BLACK LIBRARY FOR A BLACK COMMUNITY"

DOUGLASS CENTER LIBRARY PROPOSAL

It is imperative to meet the needs of the residents. In fact for years the Champaign Urbana have suffered from a lack of good educational facilities and as a consequence have become economically disadvantaged. One of the prime factors in this process is the inability to read and the reading level of most Blacks in Champaign county is about 27 more years below that of whites. Solid educational improvement depends on the ability to read and a good library is an indispensable part of this process. The Champaign and Urbana Public Libraries are located outside of the Black community and therefore physically and, indeed, geographically inaccessible. In the area bounded by University Avenue to the south, Bradley to the north, Neil Street to the west and Lincoln Avenue to the east, there are approximately 10,000 Black people who pay taxes.

Prepared by:

Douglass Center Library
Advisory Committee

Submitted:

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