



IL State Senator Karina Villa



IL 25TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 29, 2021

Hello friends & neighbors,

I am happy to share the news, my first bill passed through the Senate last week! Senate Bill 1632 would remove the requirement that social workers pass an exam for licensure. As a former school social worker, this measure was a priority for me to make sure our state is opening its arms to more social workers while ensuring there is still proper supervision from clinical social workers. With the focus on improving mental health, I believe this is a vital step in the right direction making social workers available in so many environments.

In-District

More than half of adults in Illinois have now received the COVID-19 vaccine, with DuPage and Kane Counties among the highest vaccinated populations. While that is great news, many Illinoisans continue to suffer the impact of the pandemic on their finances, their jobs and their personal lives.

This week, I've included resources to provide assistance for small businesses, child care providers and families to help bridge the gap during this challenging time.

I encourage you to take advantage of these programs or forward the information to a friend, loved one or neighbor who might be able to benefit. We are stronger together—let's keep

looking out for one another and lending a hand where we can.

Bars, Restaurants & Food Services

Attention bars, restaurants, and food service business owners! The new [U.S. Small Business Administration's](#) (SBA) Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) will be opening soon, providing funding to eligible businesses to cover pandemic-related revenue losses. These forgivable funds can be used for payroll, mortgage/rent, supplies, and many other operating expenses. The SBA is not currently accepting RRF applications, but application preparation is available. Priority will be given to women, veteran, and socially/economically disadvantaged business owners. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3gom6uM>

Illinois child care providers to receive \$1.6 billion in federal funds

Throughout the pandemic, essential workers relied on child care providers to keep their children safe while they served on the front lines. The federal American Rescue Plan allocated \$1.6 billion to child care providers in Illinois, including \$140 million in direct grants. Stay tuned for details and explore the childhood services Illinois has to offer [here](#).

Help Illinois Families program offers wide-ranging relief

Illinoisans facing financial hardship may be eligible for assistance to help pay for food, utility bills, rent and more. The Help Illinois Families initiative is open to all low-income households, regardless of how they have been affected by COVID-19. Find a list of eligibility requirements and complete a pre-application form [here](#).

What's Next?

A reminder that our Advisory committees will resume meeting in May, so mark your calendar now and watch for more information in the coming weeks.

- Education: May 13th at 7 pm;
- Seniors: May 14th at 10 am;
- Mental Health: May 20th, at 7 pm; and
- Environment & Ag: May 27th, at 7 pm.

Finally, April is National Donate Life Month, a celebration of the lifesaving gift of an organ or tissue transplant. This month, take a moment to educate yourself about organ and tissue donation, and consider signing up for the Illinois Donor Registry—it only takes 30 seconds, and it could change the lives of up to 25 people. Learn more at LifeGoesOn.com.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office for assistance. You can reach us at info@senatorvilla.com or by phone 630-326-9319 (English) or 630-326-9419 (Spanish).

Warm regards,



Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District