



Dear Friend,

Now that we are three weeks into the new year I hope that everyone's 2022 is running smoothly!

Kendall County Small Business Grant

The [Kendall County Small Business Grant Program](#) is designed to assist small businesses that experienced a loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Qualifying small businesses may be granted up to a maximum of \$25,000. In order to qualify, your small business must be currently operating and have operated in both 2019 and 2020. Email will be the primary form of communication. Funding for the Kendall County Small Business Grant Program comes from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. If there are any questions, please email arpagrants@co.kendall.il.us. The application will close on February 23rd, 2022.

Raise your sleeve for National Blood Donor Month

January is National Blood Donor Month, a time to celebrate the lifesaving impact of blood and platelet donors. Only 37% of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, but less than 10% do annually. Meanwhile, about one in seven people entering a hospital need blood. Kick off the year by making a lifesaving donation. Find a blood drive near you [here](#).

COVID-19 Update-Get Tested

Because of omicron's quick transmission, it's important to know if you have it. If you are experiencing any symptoms — which include runny nose, headache, fatigue, sneezing or a sore throat — or have been in contact with someone who has the virus, it is advised you get tested. To find a community-based PCR testing site near you, click [here](#). However, a rapid test is better than no test at all. If you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, or you have even the mildest of symptoms, get the test that best fits your needs.

Roll up your sleeve.

The COVID-19 vaccine continues to be the best defense we have against the virus. Everyone aged five and up is now eligible for their first round, and all adults who received their dose more than six months ago can now receive their booster. Do your part — it's not too late to get your initial round of the vaccine or your booster shot. To find an appointment near you, click [here](#).

Wayne Township Vaccine Clinic

Wayne Township and the Illinois Department of Public Health are working together to offer Pfizer vaccines to individuals ages 5 and older on January 22nd at 27W031 North Avenue in West Chicago. To register please call the Wayne Township office at (630) 231-7173 or register online [here](#).

Appointments are limited. Wayne Township staff is available to help you with the registration process, please be prepared to give your name, birth date, address, phone number and email address, to secure a vaccine appointment.

Please note that a parent/legal guardian consent signature will be required for individuals under 18 years of age.

Energy Assistance for Winter

Residents are recommended to apply for \$200 million remaining in utility assistance under Gov. JB Pritzker's Help Illinois Families initiative – an expansion of the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program under the American Rescue Plan. Designed to support Illinois' most vulnerable families, the program will help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000, on average per household. To learn more and to fill out a new remote application, visit helpillinoisfamilies.com.

Illinois Rental Assistance

The Illinois Rental Payment Program (ILRPP) is now closed, however, you can check the status of your application submission at <https://ilrpp2.ihda.org/> or return to your application already in-progress. Landlords whose tenants have applied can access an in-process application at <https://ilrpp2.ihda.org/#/display/618d534ead73e501a6a9c486>

If you missed the window to apply for assistance through IHDA, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is currently accepting applications for rental assistance. If you are looking for assistance, please contact an IDHS Service Provider Agency in your area at <https://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org/providers>

Grants Available for Community Projects

The Federal Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment Assistance program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs. \$500 million is available to fund an estimated 300 projects. There is a rolling deadline with a suggested submission date of March 31, 2022. Webinars and more information can be found [here](#).

Driver's License Expiration Extension

The expiration dates for driver's licenses and identification cards have been extended an additional three months, moving the date from Jan. 1, 2022, to March 31, 2022. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses and CDL learner's permits. This final extension on the expiration dates comes in response to the ongoing push to address increased customer volume caused by the pandemic in Driver Services facilities.



What's Next?

Our office partners with State Representative Maura Hirschauer and co-runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th/49th districts in order to help build our legislative agenda and grow our knowledge in these areas. Our Environment and Agriculture Committee will meet on January 27th at 7pm. Please email environment.49th@gmail.com to receive the zoom link. My staff and I look forward to hearing from you. I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or constituentservices@senatorvilla.com.

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District