




# Newsletter

## Grant Announcements and Legislative Updates

Dear Friend,

Update on where we are in the legislative process! The deadline to get Senate bills out of the chamber and send them to the House was last Friday. Below is a list of my bills currently making their way over to the House. As a reminder, for a bill to become law it must pass the Senate, the House, and then be signed by the governor. We are one-third of the way there! I'm also happy to announce some grant funding opportunities that are up for grabs to funnel into our communities. These specific grants will help out our local small businesses and offer violence prevention funding to nonprofits, keep scrolling for more information!

### Legislative Update

Here's a glimpse at some of the bills I have successfully carried out of the Senate, and now on their way to the House:



- [SB1826](#): Allows any person to submit information to the Illinois Department on Aging regarding the suspicious death of an eligible adult.
- [SB2034](#): Zachary's Parent Act allows 12 weeks of unpaid leave to grieve the loss of a child due to suicide or homicide if the business employs 250+ employees.
- [SB2197](#): Expands the role of the Juvenile Justice Ombudsman to also oversee youth detained within County Detention facilities to ensure their rights are being upheld and they are free from abuses/systemic harms.

- [SB0203](#): Adds a \$3,500 fine for exposing humans to hazardous chemical pesticides, and an additional \$1,000 for every additional person exposed when treating crops.
- [SB1497](#): Creates further protections for seniors in nursing home settings against the use of both chemical and physical restraints. Codes unnecessary physical positioning devices as restraints.
- [SB1499](#): Specifies offenses that allow law enforcement to take possession of a companion animal when making an arrest and require forfeiture of the animal.

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# Back 2 Business Grants: Creative Arts, Hotels, and Restaurants



The Back To Business (B2B) grants have opened back up with 75 million each for the following hardest-hit sectors: Restaurants, Creative Arts, and Hotels/Motels. The application is open as of April 5th and will close on May 10th, 2023. For more information and to apply visit [Small Business Assistance \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/B2B). Community Navigators are available for assistance in applying, for a complete list [click here](#).

- Creative Arts: \$50 million available with grant awards of \$5,000–\$250,000 to the following sectors: Performing and Presenting Arts, Theaters, Museums, Cultural Heritage Organizations, and Arts Education.
- Hotels: \$75 million available with grant awards of up to \$1,500 per room to the following sectors: Hotels, Motels, Inns, and Lodging Sites.
- Restaurants: \$50 million available with grant awards of \$5,000–\$50,000 to the following sectors: Restaurants, Taverns, Bars, Caterers, Breweries and Wineries.

## IDHS Violence Prevention Grants



Attention Aurora! The Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Firearm Violence Prevention has released new grant funding under the Reimagine Public Safety Act. Grants are due by April 19th, 2023 at 12pm, and are available for the following categories:

- [IDHS: Greater Illinois Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health Services](#): organizations applying must have the ability to provide screening and assessment; psychoeducation (including but not limited to psychological first aid); navigation/service linkage; and behavioral health therapy to youth and young adults ages 6–24 that have been harmed by or are at highest risk of being harmed by firearm violence. The average grant amount is \$300,000.
- [IDHS: Greater Illinois Reimagine Violence Prevention Services](#): organizations applying must have the ability to connect with those individuals at the highest risk of harming someone or being harmed by firearm violence. Funded organizations will provide a comprehensive violence prevention program inclusive of the three required program components: street outreach, case management, and victim services. The average grant amount is \$300,000.
- [IDHS: Greater Illinois Reimagine Youth Intervention Services](#): organizations applying must have the ability to engage youth and young adults ages 11–24 at the highest risk of harming someone or being harmed by firearm violence. The average grant amount is \$180,000.

## Aurora Downtown Small Business Grant

Another opportunity available in Aurora is the Aurora Downtown Small Business Grant for [SSA One](#) small businesses, property owners and initiatives taking place in this area. Up to \$2,500 is available to support a special event and up to \$5,000 is available for a permanent improvement to the exterior or interior including signage. Applications are due May 1st, 2023 and [more information and the application can be found here](#).



# Upcoming Events



➤ Cook County Tax Exemption Seminar: On April 12th from 6–8 pm at the Hanover Township Senior Center (240 S Route 59, Bartlett, IL, 60103). Come learn more about property tax exemptions that exist and how to take advantage of these opportunities.

➤ Sustainable Clothing Drive: From March 20th to April 24th clothing donations will be collected to increase awareness around sustainable fashion practices. Collections can be dropped off at our office at 946 N Neltnor Blvd, Suite 108, West Chicago, IL, 60185 from 9 am–7pm, or West Chicago High School also has a box for students to utilize.

➤ Woof-A-Palooza: On April 22nd from 10 am–1pm at Anderson Humane Shelter (1000 S La Fox St, South Elgin, IL, 60177), join us with your furry friend to microchip them to enhance their ability to be found and returned, get a picture with them at our photo booth and bring donations for the shelter. Donation wish list here: [ahconnects.org](http://ahconnects.org)

Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media:



Facebook: [@StateSenatorKVilla](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorKVilla)



Instagram: [@SenatorKarinaVilla](https://www.instagram.com/SenatorKarinaVilla)

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 give effective representation. To join these committees you can email the following for more information and meeting information:

- Environment/ 4th Thursday at 7pm / [environment.49th@gmail.com](mailto:environment.49th@gmail.com)
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / [mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com)
- Seniors / 2nd Friday at 10am / [seniors.25th@gmail.com](mailto:seniors.25th@gmail.com)
- Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / [education.49th@gmail.com](mailto:education.49th@gmail.com)

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](mailto:constituentservices@senatorvilla.com). Textline is (331)465-9690.

Be well!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Karina Villa'.

Karina Villa, MSW  
State Senator, 25th District