



Newsletter

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft and Scams, Recent Updates and More!

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of upcoming events in the 25th District to protect yourself from fraud, identity theft and scams. Check out recent highlights on updates in the district, new laws and grants!

Shred Event

Fight identity theft and needless clutter at home by bringing your personal documents to our free Community Document Shredding Event to have them securely shredded. Join us on Saturday, Aug. 24 at West Chicago Public Library District, 118 W. Washington St., from 9-11 a.m. Only paper materials will be accepted for shredding. Small paper clips and staples do not need to be removed. Shredding is accepted until the shred truck is full. Additionally, we are happy to collect the following items to recycle with SCARCE at this event: holiday lights, cords & wires, keys (household, luggage, car), eyeglasses and sunglasses (no cases), plastic bread tags, x-ray, MRI, and lithographic film, hearing aids, crayons, 35mm film canisters and metal jewelry – like new, used or broken.



West Chicago's Fremont Water Tower Rehabilitation Project

As a lifelong resident of West Chicago, I was thrilled to secure \$750,000 in funding to paint and restore the Fremont Water Tower. With the project now almost complete, I had to go see it for myself.



It was a pleasure meeting with the Project Manager, the Painters Union and the City of West Chicago to learn more about the process and all of their hard work to get this project done. This nice upgrade is something West Chicago truly deserves! For more, check out this [video](#). Stay tuned for updates on additional capital funding projects I secured throughout the 25th District!

Workers' Rights Fair

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Workers' Rights Fair last week! We are extremely grateful to our partners for helping us share critical information about labor rights and the Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement Program, DALE, to our community. If you have any questions regarding your rights within the workplace, please call my West Chicago Office at 630-326-9319 or my Aurora Office at 331-465-9690.



Legislative Updates

HB 4768 Landlord Retaliation Act

My initiative establishing the Landlord Retaliation Act is officially law! This act protects tenants from retaliation after seeking assistance to ensure their home is safe and habitable. Forms of retaliation prohibited under this act include terminating tenancy, increasing rent, decreasing services, bringing or threatening a lawsuit or refusing to renew a lease. Actions taken by a tenant that are protected under this law include requests for repairs, complaints of code violations, organizing or being a member of a tenants' union, testifying in an official proceeding or seeking assistance from elected officials. This law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2025!



SB 3208 Protecting Workers' Wages

Another law coming Jan. 1, 2025 is my latest workers' rights law. Under this new law, employers are required to retain copies of employee pay stubs for at least 3 years and provide copies to current and former employees upon request. This law will ensure pay transparency and provide access to essential information to apply for housing, loans and other items while providing protections against wage theft! If you have any questions about my new laws, call my Springfield office at 217-782-0471.



State and Local Resources

QOL, CDBG, HOME and HOME-ARP Grant Program Pre-Application Workshop

The City of Aurora will host a pre-application virtual workshop on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. to provide important information to individuals interested in applying to upcoming Fiscal Year 2025 grant programs. The workshop will provide information about the programs and project eligibility, agency capacity and the application and funding process for each.

The programs that will be covered by the workshop include:

- Quality of Life Grant Program
- Community Development Block Grant
- HOME Investment Partnership Program

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT:
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

City of Aurora
Quality of Life Grant, Community Development Block Grant,
HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and
HOME - American Rescue Plan
Pre-Application Virtual Workshop
Thursday, August 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Participation in this pre-application workshop is highly recommended but not required in order to apply for funding.

The workshop will be viewable via remote access at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84194392117?pwd=SU01RjYwSjR3OjR1aDZwN0QwWkMk>

To join the workshop via telephone, please call: +1 312 626-6799
Meeting ID: 841 9439 2117
Passcode: 052739

In preparation for the 2025 Quality of Life (QOL), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and HOME American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funding cycle, the City of Aurora will host a pre-application virtual workshop on Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the City's QOL, CDBG, HOME, and HOME-ARP grant programs. The workshop will also provide information about project eligibility, agency capacity, and the application/funding process for all programs.

The QOL, CDBG, HOME and HOME-ARP applications, along with their submission instructions, will be available for download on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at <https://www.aurora.il.gov/1195/CommunityDevelopment>. The deadline for all application programs is **Friday, October 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** No exceptions.

Please call the Community Development Division at 630-256-3321 or email RagoneC@aurora.il.us with questions or visit www.aurora.il.gov/1195/CommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant.

Community Development Division • 411 Dwyer Place • Aurora, IL 60509 • 630-256-3321 • csd@aurora.il.us

- HOME American Rescue Plan

Participation in the workshop is not required to apply for funding but highly recommended. The workshop will be held via Zoom at this [link](#). Applications with instructions will be available for download on Thursday, Aug. 29 at www.aurora-il.org/1175/Community-Development. If you have any questions, please call the Aurora Community development Division at 630-256-3321 or email ragonac@aurora.il.us.

Senior Scam Awareness Bingo

Compañeros en Salud and the Aurora Public Library are teaming up with Age Guide to host a Senior Scam Awareness Bingo event in Spanish on Thursday, Aug. 29 from 12-2 p.m. at the Santori Branch, located at 101 S. River Street, in rooms 125 and 126. Stop by to learn more about avoiding frauds and scams. Bingo prizes and food will be provided. For more information, call 630-264-4284 or visit the library's [website](#).



New Online Applications for Professional Licensure!

On August 12, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation made the following applications for professional licensure available online: Licenced Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC). Visit [eLicense Online](https://elicenseonline.com) (micropact.com) to complete and submit your application. Be sure to reference IDFPR's [application checklist](#) before submitting your application to help ensure your are approved without delay!



OSFM Small Equipment Grant Program

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has opened their applications for their Small Equipment Grant Program. The program provides grants up to \$26,000 to eligible fire departments and ambulance services for purchasing small firefighting and ambulance equipment. Applications should be submitted electronically or postmarked by Oct. 1. Review the eligibility requirements [here](#). View the application [here](#).

Our office 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 in order to provide effective representation. To join these committees you

can email the following for more information and meeting information:

- Environment/ 1st Wednesday at 7pm / environment.25th@gmail.com
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com
 - Seniors / 2nd Thursday at 10am / seniors.25th@gmail.com
 - Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / education.25th@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 (331)465-9690 constituentservices@senatorvilla.com.

Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook: @StateSenatorKVilla](#), [Instagram: @SenatorKarinaVilla](#).

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District