



Stop by our Turkey or Ham Giveaway!

Happy Holidays! I wish every family across the 25th joy while celebrating with friends and family. In the spirit of the season, my office will be hosting a turkey and ham give away to support local families during the holidays. Read on for more information and for exciting updates and resources!

DuPage Community Conversation

Thank you to our incredible participants, partners, and volunteers for joining us on Saturday! Together, we engaged in meaningful conversations about how future policies will shape our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces and discussed actionable steps community members can take to support their neighbors.

In times of change and uncertainty, this event stands as a testament to the strength and resilience of our community. These conversations are just the beginning, and together, we will ensure that Illinois remains a safe place for everyone.



Profiles in Civic Courage Award

Thank you to the Muslim Civic Coalition for honoring me with the Profiles in Civic Courage Award. Courage comes from the stories of perseverance I've witnessed—from my students, mothers, and everyday heroes who stand up for others. These moments guide my work as a legislator and my commitment to championing legislation for our most vulnerable. I am so grateful for the Coalition's unwavering advocacy. Let us honor Wade's memory and keep striving for a world of peace and prosperity.



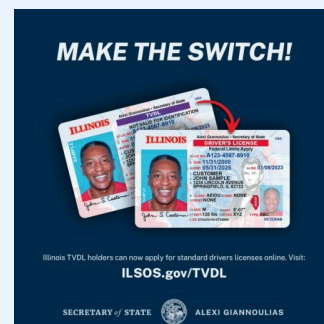
Turkey and Ham Giveaway!

Join us this Thursday, Dec. 19th for a Turkey and Ham Giveaway, in partnership with the office of State Representative Barbara Hernandez. Families will have the opportunity to receive a free ham **OR** turkey, at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, located at 150 W. Illinois Ave in rooms 102 and 103 from 5-7 p.m. Reservation is required. Reserve your turkey or ham by following this [link](#) and filling out the required information.



Issue Your Driver's License Today!

Immigrants who are Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) holders or who have been an Illinois resident for longer than a year are eligible for a standard driver's license. If you currently have an unexpired TVDL that is within 60 days of expiration, you can apply online to replace your TVDL with a standard license. Visit [TVDL Replacement Card Application \(ilsos.gov\)](#) to apply. First-time applicants must visit a DMV and meet the criteria to issue a license. Review the first time issuance checklist [here](#). If you have any questions, reach out to our office at 630-326-9319 or 331-465-9690.



State and Local Resources

ISAC Assistance for FAFSA

The 2025-26 FAFSA Form is now available for all incoming college students for the 2025-26 school year. To help Illinois students fill out their FAFSA application, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission is providing additional workshops, free one-on-one assistance, and more. For more information and to register, visit www.isac.org.

Warming Centers

With temperatures dropping below freezing, learn about warming centers available in your area in case of an emergency. Visit the links below to find the warming center closest to you.

- [DuPage County Warming Centers](#)
- [Kane County Warming Centers](#)
- [Cook County Warming Centers](#)



SmartBuy Program

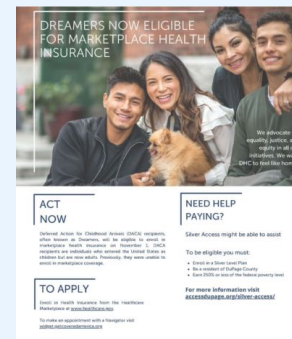
Illinois has relaunched its SmartBuy Program to provide assistance to young home buyers. SmartBuy offers an affordable 30-year fixed rate first mortgage with \$5,000 in deferred down payment and/or closing cost assistance. The program also provides up to \$40,000 in student loan relief to borrowers buying a home in Illinois. Potential applicants must have at least \$1,000 in student loan debt and must pay off their full remaining student loan debt balance, if more than \$40,000, at closing. Partial student loan repayment is not available under SmartBuy. The program is available to both first-time and



repeat homebuyers. To learn more about SmartBuy, visit the Illinois Housing Development Authority's [website](#).

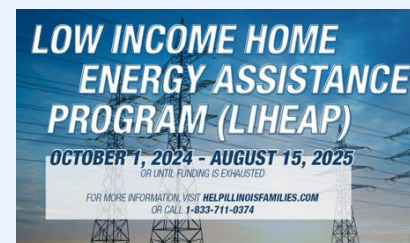
State Marketplace Insurance Open for DACA Recipients

DACA recipients are now eligible to enroll in marketplace health insurance under the Affordable Care Act for the first time as open enrollment begins. DACA recipients will be able to enroll through Jan. 15. Apply for coverage at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). If you are a resident of DuPage County, you may be eligible to receive assistance with insurance payments through the DuPage Health Coalition's Silver Access ACA Premium Assistance Program. Check if you qualify by visiting their [website](#).



LIHEAP Applications Now Open

Illinois' winter weather rule is in effect until March 31, which protects residents from gas and electric utility disconnections on days at or below freezing temperatures. Those who need assistance with paying their utility bills are encouraged to apply for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Learn more and [apply online](#) or call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance in 30 languages. Ameren, Nicor, North Shore and Peoples Gas natural gas customers who qualify for LIHEAP are eligible for a monthly discount on their gas bills through the state's new [low-income discount rates](#).



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](#), [LinkedIn: Karina Villa](#), [TikTok: @StateSenatorKarinaVilla](#)

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District