



College Scholarship Opportunities & more

My office is always ready to serve the constituents of the 25th District. If you are in need, contact my office at 630-326-9319 or 331-465-9690. Read on below for scholarship opportunities and important updates from Springfield. Happy Women's History and Social Work Month!

3rd Congressional District Women's History Month Celebration

I was honored to join the trailblazing women of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District at a Women's History Month celebration hosted by [Congresswoman Delia Ramirez](#). These incredible legislators work tirelessly to uplift and protect our communities. I'm proud to stand alongside such dedicated women, serving Illinois.



Accepting College Internship Applications

We are still accepting applications for our 2025-2026 College Internship Program. If you are a college student passionate about social justice and want to serve the constituents of the 25th Senate District and gain valuable experience in public service, email us your resume and cover letter at karinavilla.office@gmail.com! The internship is open to BSW and MSW candidates. For more information and important dates, call 630-326-9319.



Legislative Updates

Last week was committee deadline week in Springfield! I was able to present the six following bills:

- SB1519: would close a loophole that will prohibit student fines from being issued in public schools
- SB1238: would provide adequate coverage to nonopioid alternatives



- SB2016: would limit fees for 403(b) plans offered to our public school educators
- SB2264: would addresses the discriminatory harm that Crime Free Housing Nuisance ordinances have on tenants across the state
- SB2434: would make trained family caregiver who cares for a related child full- time eligible for compensation for their services
- SB2266: would amend the Environmental Protection Act to to ensure Illinois is following the Groundwater Protection Act and guidelines from the U.S. EPA

If there is ever a question on a bill, feel free to contact my Springfield office at 217-782-0471!

I was also proud to stand with Service Employees International Union members at their rally to advocate for dignified pay for home care workers in Illinois.

Direct service workers are on the front lines, ensuring that our most vulnerable are taken care of and are able to live an independent and dignified life. A living wage is the bare minimum of what these workers need and deserve.



March is Social Work Month

Prior to being State Senator, I was Ms. Villa, School Social Worker. In my 15 years of experience, I garnered the skills that allow me to be a fierce advocate for the communities across the 25th District. My office proudly serves our constituents through an open door model and is committed to creating a lasting impact for the betterment of our communities.



I am honored to have dedicated social workers on my team who are passionate about equity and uplifting our most vulnerable. A special shout out to my Bilingual Community Service Director Abigail



Bautista, BSW, my Legislative Assistant Sebastian Wong, BSW and my interns Gloria, Mabelle and Jorja, BSW Candidates. Thank you for all the work that you do. Happy Social Work Month to all the incredible social work advocates across the 25th District!



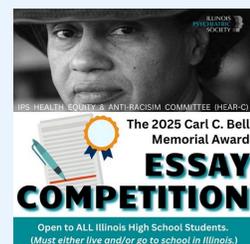
State and Local Resources

Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness Scholarship

The Chicago Coalition to end Homelessness is currently accepting applications for their college scholarship program. This scholarship opportunity is open to graduating seniors who experienced homelessness while in high school. Recipients will receive a \$4,000 scholarship that is renewable through college. Undocumented students are welcome to apply. Applications for the 2025-26 school year are due by Friday, April 11 at 5 p.m. Learn more by visiting their [website](#) and apply [here](#).

Carl C. Bell Memorial Award Essay Competition

The Illinois Psychiatric Society is hosting their annual Carl C. Bell Memorial Award Essay Competition, which is open to all Illinois high school students. Dr. Carl C. Bell was a community psychiatrist who advocated for corrective systemic changes to improve outcomes in mental health care through public health approaches, both for the African-American community and for us all. This year's topic is centered in community, like much of Dr. Bell's



work. Essay guidelines are available on IPS' [website](#). [Submissions](#) are due May 15. First place will receive a \$500 award and have their essay published by the IPS.

Sweet Peach Tree iCARE4 Adoption Competency Scholarship

This scholarship opportunity is available to graduate students preparing to become school social workers specializing in adoption competent practices. Applicants must complete the [School-Based Mental Health Training](#) by C.A.S.E. Apply [here](#).



DCFS offers scholarships to youth in care

There is still time to submit an application for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services DCFS Scholarship Program. More than 50 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year. Scholarship recipients will receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating Illinois community colleges and public universities. Youth who are at least 16 years old by the March 31 deadline should [apply here](#).

COVID Tests & Narcan Available for Pick Up

Visit our Aurora office to pick up free COVID tests and Narcan provided by the [Kane County Health Department](#). We are open on Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:00am to 7:00pm at 1177 N Highland Ave. Suite 101 Aurora, IL 60506.



Infrastructure Grant Funding for Small Businesses

Small, locally owned businesses in historically underrepresented areas and businesses with fewer than 10 employees should apply by April 7 for up to \$245,000 in grant funding from the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment's Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program. Eligible small businesses can find additional information, webinars and application materials on the [DCEO website](#).

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!

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

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District