



IL State Senator Karina Villa



IL 25TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

MAY 13, 2021

Hello friends & neighbors,

There is so much information to share this week we have had to change our format, and I barely know where to begin.

In-District

On Friday of last week, I had the opportunity to visit the Canopy program of Giant Steps in Sugar Grove. If you're unfamiliar, Canopy is an adult day program for individuals on the autism spectrum that works to utilize a combination of activities, opportunities, and support to provide the most benefit for each participant at that participant's capabilities. The staff at Canopy are some of the best, well trained individuals that provide a cohesiveness for the Canopy participants.

Rental Assistance

This month the Illinois Housing Development Authority will offer Emergency Rental Assistance for households who are unable to pay rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications will open for housing providers on May 17th at 9am and will close on June 6th. You can learn more at:

<https://www.ihda.org/about-ihda/illinois-rental-payment-program/>

Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF)

The RRF is a program to provide emergency assistance to eligible restaurants and other qualifying businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic. *It is not a loan program.* If you use the money for eligible expenses, you don't have to pay the money back.

Who is eligible?

- Restaurants
- Food stands, food trucks, food carts
- Caterers
- Bars, saloons, lounges, taverns
- Snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars
- Bakeries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Wineries and distilleries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Inns (onsite sales of food and beverage to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Licensed facilities or premises of a beverage alcohol producer where the public may taste, sample, or purchase products

State Senator Karina Villa District Office ♦ 946 N.Neltnor Blvd., #108, West Chicago
info@senatorvilla.com ♦ 630.326.9319 (English) 630.326.9419 (Spanish)

SenatorVilla.com

- Brewpubs, tasting rooms, taprooms (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)
- Breweries and/or microbreweries (onsite sales to the public comprise at least 33% of gross receipts)

For the first 21 days (May 3 – May 24), the following groups have priority: Women, Veterans, Socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (e.g., Black Americans; Hispanic Americans; Native Americans (including Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians); Asian Pacific Americans; or Subcontinent Asian Americans).

Do you need help applying?

- **Illinois Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs):** Illinois SBDCs provide one-on-one counseling, assistance with navigating best options for financial support programs, technical assistance with documentation requirements to prepare applications, and more. Find your nearest SBDC [here](#).
- **Community Navigators:** The state is working with 12 community navigators - grassroots organizations connected with other community services. Community navigators can help determine your eligibility for programs, assist with documents, and refer to other specialized services. A full list of community navigators can be found [here](#).
- **DCEO Office of Regional Economic Development (Team RED) and the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment (OMEE):** These DCEO teams provide targeted referrals and counseling for economic opportunities to businesses and communities based on geography (Team RED) and in support of minority enterprises including racial/ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veteran-owned businesses (OMEE). To connect with your area Team RED member, please click [here](#). To connect with OMEE, please click [here](#).

For more information visit the Small Business Administration's website at <https://sba.gov/restaurants>

Foster Parent Appreciation Month

This month I join DCFS in thanking the thousands of foster families across the state who have opened their homes and their hearts to provide temporary safe havens to children most in need.

According to DCFS, foster homes are needed for sibling groups, adolescents, African American and Latino youth, children with special medical needs, teenage mothers and their babies and LGBTQI

(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex) youth. There are many types of foster care, including traditional care, emergency/shelter care, medical/therapeutic care, relative/kinship care, respite/short-term care and tribal care.

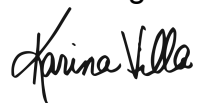
To learn more about becoming a licensed foster parent, fill out the online interest form on the DCFS website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dcf>. Click on Loving Homes, then click on Become a Foster or Adoptive Parent.

What's Next?

I am excited to share the next steps in our state's pandemic recovery efforts. Starting tomorrow, May 14th, the entire state will move into the Bridge Phase of the Restore Illinois reopening plan—easing capacity limits and allowing for increased business operations in all industries. For specifics on the Bridge Phase, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/bridge-phase>.

As always, my staff and I are always ready to assist you. You can reach us at info@senatorvilla.com or by phone 630-326-9319 (English) or 630-326-9419 (Spanish).

Warm regards,



Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District