

RESPECT FOR
YESTERDAY,
SUPPORT FOR
TODAY,
PLAN FOR
TOMORROW



Aging Matters

April 2025 Newsletter from the Illinois Department on Aging

Office of
Governor JB
Pritzker

Message From Acting Director Mary Killough



News and
Events

As you may have heard, over the past month, the Trump administration [announced major changes](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Among these is the elimination of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), whose programs older adults and people with disabilities rely on to remain healthy and independent in their communities.

Illinois' State
Plan on Aging

We do not yet know the consequences of this "restructuring" at the federal level. While it is unlikely that direct services such as senior meals, caregiver support, and aging/disability information and assistance will be gutted across the board, we anticipate potential delays in funding, which may cause some services to be halted or reduced in Illinois.

Find Services
in Your Area

IDOa is taking steps to prepare for future uncertainty as we await further guidance from HHS, ACL, and other federal partners. We encourage older adults and their caregivers to continue utilizing the services available to you through your Area Agency on Aging and local service providers. If you have questions about a particular service, contact the [provider serving your county](#) or the Senior Helpline at Aging.ILSenior@Illinois.gov or 1-800-252-8966.

Senior
Illinoisans
Hall of Fame

License Plate
Discount

Program Spotlight: Adult Day Services

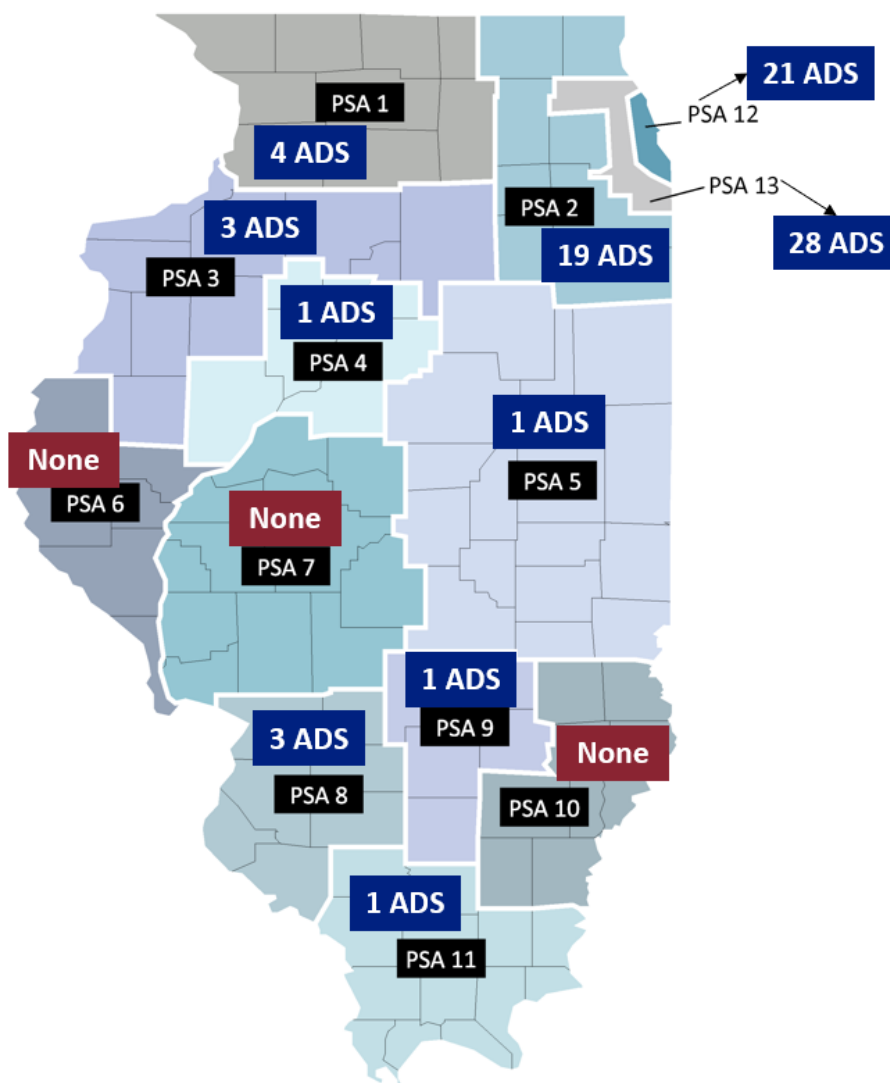
Adult Day Services (ADS) offer an affordable alternative to traditional long-term care placement and allow older adults who need support to remain in their homes longer.

ADS programs provide a welcoming space for older adults where they can stay engaged with their communities, connect with peers, and enjoy activities designed for their interests and abilities.

Services offered in ADS centers may include health monitoring, medication supervision, personal care, recreational and/or therapeutic activities, community outings, and meals. Some ADS centers cater to specific clientele, such as older adults with Alzheimer's disease or members of one or more ethnic groups.

For caregivers, Adult Day Services offer essential respite, allowing them to tend to personal and professional responsibilities, knowing their loved ones are in a safe and enriching environment.

The Department on Aging contracts with more than 75 ADS centers, located in 10 of Illinois' 13 Planning and Service Areas, or PSAs, which serve around 1,300 total older adults.



To receive services at a state-contracted ADS center, an older adult typically must qualify for and be enrolled in the [Community Care Program](#), although some ADS centers accept private pay.

To find an ADS center in your area, begin by selecting your county using this [map tool](#).

Nominate Someone for the Senior Illinoisans Hall



**NOW
ACCEPTING
NOMINATIONS**

CATEGORIES:
Arts, Sports, and Entertainment
Community Service
Education
Labor Force



The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is seeking nominations for the 2025 induction class of the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame, which honors the accomplishments of Illinois residents aged 65 and older.

Each year, four older adults are inducted into the Hall of Fame for their work in the arts, sports, and entertainment; community service; education; or the labor force. Anyone may nominate an older adult for consideration.

To be eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame, nominees must be:

- At least 65 years old at the time of nomination; and
- A current Illinois resident or a previous resident of Illinois for most of their life.

Posthumous nominations are also accepted, provided the nominee was 65 or older and living in Illinois at the time of death.

To guarantee consideration for the 2025 induction class, nominations must be submitted on or before **June 2, 2025**. Nominators of new Hall of Fame inductees are expected to participate in an award ceremony honoring their nominee and highlighting their accomplishments.

Completed nomination forms may be submitted electronically or returned via U.S. mail, fax, or email. For more information or to submit a nomination, click [here](#).

Better Business Bureau Scam Alert: Home Improvement Scammers Take Money, Don't Complete Work

Use caution when hiring a [home improvement contractor](#), especially following a [major storm, flood, or weather event](#) when many homeowners are trying to repair their homes. However, contractor scams can happen anytime, so be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, upfront fees, and fly-by-night businesses. Con artists will take homeowners' money and deliver (or not deliver) less than quality work.

How the scam works:

Home improvement scams can start with a knock on the door, a flyer, or an ad. The contractor may offer a low price or a short timeframe. One common hook is when the scammer claims to

be working in your neighborhood on another project and has leftover supplies.

Once started, a rogue contractor may "find" issues that significantly raise the price. If you object, they threaten to walk away and leave a half-finished project. Or they may accept your upfront deposit and never return to do the job. Following a natural disaster, scammers persuade homeowners to sign over their insurance payments.

One consumer shared the following experience with [BBB Scam Tracker](#): "He requested cash to purchase the materials. He came to pick up the cash and said he would schedule the day and time to do the job. After numerous exchanges of text messages promising to find a time, he couldn't come up with one. If he did, he wouldn't show up at such time. I then asked for a refund which he agreed to but never showed up again."

Tips to spot this scam:

- Watch out for "red flags." Say no to cash-only deals, high-pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, handshake deals without a contract, and on-site inspections. Not all "storm chasers" are con artists, but enough are that you should be cautious any time a home contractor contacts you first...especially after a natural disaster.
- Ask for references and check them out. Bad contractors will be reluctant to share this information, and scammers won't wait for you to do your homework. If you can, get references from past customers, both older references to check on the quality of the work and newer references to ensure current employees are up to the task. Check them out at [BBB.org](#) to see what other customers have experienced. And always get a written contract with the price, materials, and timeline. The more detail, the better.
- Know the law. Work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing, and insurance. Confirm that your vendor will get related permits, and make sure you know who is responsible for what according to your local laws and that your vendor is ready to comply.

Opportunities for Engagement

AgeGuide Advocacy Breakfast Collaborative

Elected officials, aging network providers, local partners, and area residents are invited to participate in a series of community discussions about current issues facing Illinois older adults, caregivers, and families.

CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION:

Friday, May 2 | 9 - 11 a.m.

Maravela's Banquet & Catering
4 Washington Street, Ingleside

Monday, May 5 | 9 - 11 a.m.

Senior Services Associates
2111 Plum Street, Aurora

Monday, May 12 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Virtual

RSVP

Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 22 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Virtual - [Join meeting](#)

The Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council was established in 2022 to evaluate available resources, services, and state outreach for older adults and review the impact of COVID-19 on senior living arrangements. The council meets quarterly and submits annual reports of its findings to the Governor and state lawmakers. Council meetings are open to the public.

"Meet the Legislators" Panel Discussion in Alton

Senior Services Plus, Inc. (SSP) will host a "Meet the Legislators" panel discussion on **Friday, April 25, 2025, from 12 to 1 p.m.**

Proudly sponsored by AARP Illinois, the event will feature District Director Brian Zilm from U.S. Representative Nikki Budzinski's office, Senator Erica Harriss, and State Representative Katie Stuart. These legislators will discuss key topics and issues impacting the older adult community, followed by a Q&A session where attendees can engage directly with the speakers.

This event will take place in the School House Grill inside Senior Services Plus, located at 2306 N. Rodgers Ave. in Alton. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and speakers will begin at noon. The event is free, open to the public, and lunch will be provided thanks to sponsor AARP Illinois. **Registration is required and space is limited.** To reserve your seat, call Leslie at 618-465-3298 ext. 123 or visit <https://events.aarp.org/LegRoundtableAlton>.

Upcoming Events

Senior Resource Fair in Decatur

Tuesday, April 22 from noon to 2 p.m.

Decatur Public Library
130 N. Franklin St.

State Senator Doris Turner is inviting residents to attend a senior resource fair on Tuesday, April 22.

Seniors will be able to ask questions and obtain information from a variety of service and health care providers, state programs and local groups. People with questions can reach out to Turner's office at 217-782-0228.

Central Illinois Senior Celebration

The Central Illinois Senior Celebration will be held on May 21, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Orr Building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

Admission is free with the donation of a canned food item, and concessions will be available for purchase at the event.

As part of the celebration, beginning at 11 a.m. on May 21, the [Sangamon County TRIAD](#) will present "Who's Knocking at Your Door." Police officers, government and utility workers, and various delivery personnel will walk a runway dressed in uniform to help older adults distinguish

between scammers and strangers who may have a legitimate reason to visit their home.

Items of Interest

[Illinois bill requires financial advisors to report suspected elder financial abuse](#)

[Proposal to raise age for senior road tests clears first legislative hurdle](#)

[Illinois bill requiring AEDs in all nursing homes passes unanimously out of House](#)

[Did you receive a letter about Social Security overpayments? Here's what the new change means](#)

[Savoy senior facility celebrates two 100th birthdays](#)

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the **Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966; 711 (TRS)**



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