

RESPECT FOR
YESTERDAY,
SUPPORT FOR
TODAY,
PLAN FOR
TOMORROW



Aging Matters

June 2025 Newsletter from the Illinois Department on Aging

Office of
Governor JB
Pritzker

Message From Director Mary Killough



News and
Events

Under the federal Older Americans Act, each state is required to detail how it plans to serve older adults. IDoA recently [published a proposed plan](#) to guide us through the next three years and is inviting older adults, caregivers, advocacy organizations, professionals in the aging field, and others to review and provide feedback on the plan.

Illinois' State
Plan on Aging

We crafted this proposed plan after hosting a dozen roundtable discussions in fall 2024, in addition to numerous discussions with advisory council members, to gather feedback on priorities. The plan is also based on the area plans of Illinois' [13 Area Agencies on Aging](#).

Find Services
in Your Area

It describes three broad, overarching goals, along with objectives and strategies to achieve these goals, to support a high quality of life for older adults and their family members.

Senior
Illinoisans
Hall of Fame

We encourage you to share your feedback on the plan, [posted here](#). After reviewing the proposed version, [take a short survey](#), or click the survey link to type or upload written feedback.

License Plate
Discount

Written feedback will be accepted through **June 15, 2025**.

June 15 Is Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Don't stand by, stand up against elder abuse!



#WEAAD

NCEA
National Center on Elder Abuse

June 15 is Elder Abuse Awareness Day. With reports of elder abuse [on the rise in Illinois since 2022](#), it's important that everyone learns the warning signs and how to report it.

Elder abuse is characterized as an act causing any physical, mental or sexual injury to an older adult, including exploitation of their financial resources and abandonment. The term also applies to actions that create an environment in which harm could be expected, including harm to an older adult's health, physical and/or emotional well-being, or welfare.

Signs of potential elder abuse may include unexplained injuries, behavioral changes, such as becoming emotionally upset or withdrawn, unsafe or unsanitary living conditions, and sudden changes in an older adult's bank accounts or banking practices. A more comprehensive list of warning signs is available from the [U.S. Department of Justice](#).

Anyone can report abuse of an older adult or person with a disability who lives in the community by calling Illinois' 24-hour Adult Protective Services (APS) hotline at **866-800-1409** or 711 (for Telecommunications Relay Service for persons with hearing or speech disabilities). When making a report to APS, callers should be prepared to provide the name and location of the alleged victim and details regarding the alleged abuse. APS reports are confidential, and reporters may choose to remain anonymous.

If an older adult is in immediate, life-threatening danger, call 911. To report suspected abuse in a long-term care facility, contact a [long-term care ombudsman](#) or, for nursing homes specifically, call the Illinois Department of Public Health's nursing home hotline at **800-252-4343**.



Pictured: IDoA staff in Springfield and Chicago wore purple this week to show support for the dignity, safety, and well-being of older adults.

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Today, there are more than 7 million people aged 65 and older in the United States living with Alzheimer's disease. Two-thirds of Americans have at least one major potential risk factor for dementia. The brain changes that cause Alzheimer's are thought to begin 20 years or more before symptoms start, which suggests that there may be a substantial window of time in which to intervene in the progression of the disease.

During June, the Alzheimer's Association is offering five suggestions to take charge of your brain health and reduce your risk of cognitive decline. [Read their suggestions here.](#)

In related news: Gov. JB Pritzker recently [signed a new state law](#) requiring health insurance providers to cover medication that slows the progression of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Such coverage includes all medically necessary diagnostic testing and medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Illinois Lawmakers Pass Bill to Raise Age of Senior Driving Tests

A bill on its way to Gov. JB Pritzker's desk would increase the age for mandatory behind-the-

wheel driving tests from 79 to 87.

Currently, if an Illinois driver renews their driver's license between the ages of 79 and 80, they are required to take a driving test. Drivers between 81 and 86 are required to take a driving test every two years, and drivers 87 and older have to take the test annually.

If Pritzker signs [House Bill 1226](#), only drivers 87 and older would have to take an annual driver's test. Drivers between 79 and 86 would still have to take a vision test, and if they have a driving violation, a written test.

The bill would also allow a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling or child of any Illinois driver to submit medical information about the driver to the Secretary of State if they think the person's medical condition interferes with their driving abilities. Currently, only medical officials, police officers, and state's attorneys can submit such information.

Keep an Eye Out for the Latest Travel Scams

Dreaming of your next getaway? Watch out for travel scams that can turn paradise into a nightmare! From fake vacation rentals to bogus tour operators, fraudsters are getting crafty. Learn the red flags—like deals that seem too good to be true—and travel smart. Your dream trip deserves real peace of mind!

Avoid summer travel scams

Upcoming Events

Strides for Change Walk to End Elder Abuse

Date: June 20

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Health and Wellness Center
626 Bethany Rd., DeKalb, IL 60115

Participants are encouraged to wear purple for this event. T-shirts will be available for purchase.

Register

Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 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.

Senior Day at the Illinois State Fair

Monday, August 11 is Senior Day at the Illinois State Fair. Adults aged 60 and older will receive free admission to the fairgrounds.

General information:

Trams: Two trams will run on a [dedicated route](#) during the Illinois State Fair. Both trams are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Parking: Accessible parking is available at Gates 4, 7, and 11. The tram makes stops near each of these lots.

Wheelchair/scooter rentals: Wagons, wheelchairs, and electric scooters are [available for rent](#) on a first-come, first-served basis. The rental location in the Illinois Building will operate from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday - Sunday. A driver's license will be required for deposit on all rentals. Rentals must be returned by midnight on the same day.

Rental rates:

- Scooter: \$70
- Deluxe scooter: \$130
- Wheelchair: \$20
- Deluxe wheelchair: \$30
- Wagon: \$20

Cooling stations: Several buildings on the fairgrounds are air-conditioned:

- Artisans Building
- Emerson Building Lobby
- Hobbies Arts and Crafts
- Illinois Building
- Illinois Fire Museum
- Orr Building

Additional days of interest:

Tuesday, August 12

\$2 admission for adults and seniors.

Saturday, August 16

New to the fair in 2025, a pickleball tournament will take place inside the air-conditioned Orr Building on Saturday, August 16. [Sign up to compete](#), or stop by to learn how to play. There is nearby parking at Gate 8.

Items of Interest

[Advocates for older adults hold day of action in Normal to protect threatened programs](#)

[Illinois Secretary of State issues warning over DMV text scams](#)

[A caregiver dad, Bradley Cooper and how a national crisis inspired an unexpected film](#)

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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