

RESPECT FOR
YESTERDAY,
SUPPORT FOR
TODAY,
PLAN FOR
TOMORROW



Aging Matters

August 2024 Newsletter from the Illinois Department on Aging

Office of
Governor JB
Pritzker

News and
Events

Illinois' State
Plan on Aging

Find Services
in Your Area

Senior
Illinoisans
Hall of Fame

License Plate
Discount

Message From Acting Director Mary Killough



Hello from Baltimore, Maryland, where I am attending [ADvancing States'](#) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Conference. This annual, national conference brings together state, federal, and local policymakers, as well as leaders who administer, manage, and deliver waiver and other HCBS programs, such as Illinois' [Community Care Program](#).

Department on Aging staff will be presenting, jointly with leaders from the state of Connecticut, on our [Illinois Care Connections](#) program, which provides technology and assistive devices to older adults living in the community, with the goal of enhancing their overall well-being and quality of life.

I'm happy to be here to share and learn best practices to improve our state's delivery of long-term services and supports.

These best practices will eventually help inform the development of Illinois' new Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA), a 10-year strategic plan to strengthen our position as an age-inclusive state. Following an [executive order](#) signed this month by Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois will develop an MPA by December 31, 2025, to be implemented over the next decade. More on this exciting announcement below!

Sincerely,

Gov. Pritzker Signs Executive Order Establishing

Long-Term Blueprint to Support Aging Illinoisans



On Tuesday, August 13, Governor JB Pritzker kicked off a decade-long process to address the needs of aging Illinoisans, signing an [executive order](#) to hire a chief planning officer within the Department on Aging.

This position will lead the development and implementation of a multi-year Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA). The MPA will serve as a 10-year blueprint to support healthy aging in Illinois communities and set clear, measurable objectives for evaluating public and private sector progress toward this goal. The chief planning officer will deliver the MPA to the governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2025, and an additional status report by December 31, 2026.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately one-quarter of Illinois' population will be 60 or older by 2030, raising significant challenges and opportunities in both the public and private sectors. An MPA will proactively prepare government, non-profit, and private sector organizations to meet a growing number of older adults' evolving needs, including unmet needs related to health, safety, social and financial well-being, housing, transportation, and more.

[Read more](#)

Pictured above, from left: First Assistant Deputy Governor Ryan Croke, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging Chief Executive Officer Susan C. Real, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Sameer Vohra, Illinois Department on Aging Acting Director Mary Killough, Health & Medicine Policy Research Group's Policy Director Wesley Epplin, Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, AARP Illinois State Director Philippe Largent, and RRF Foundation for Aging President Mary O'Donnell.

Department on Aging Hosts Senior Day at the

Illinois State Fair



State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark, Department on Aging Acting Director Mary Killough, and Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello welcomed older adults to the Fairgrounds on Monday, August 12.



More than a dozen healthcare providers offered blood pressure, blood sugar, and kidney screenings, hearing assessments, falls prevention tips, and health and wellness resources to older fairgoers.

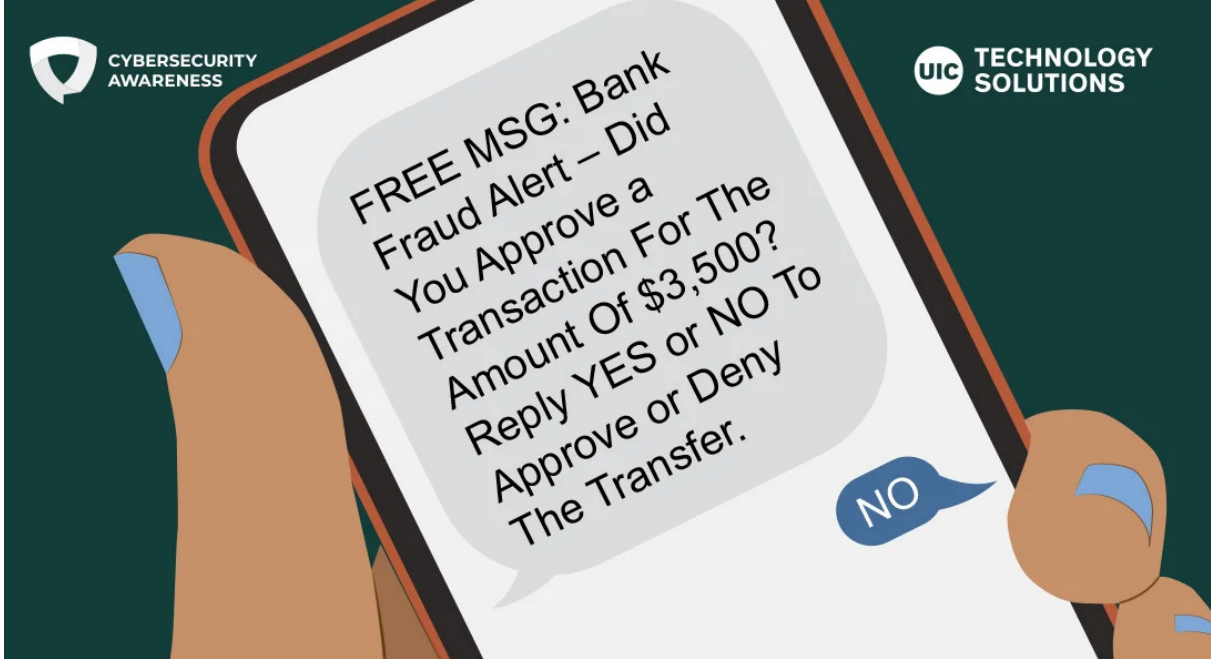


State and community partners distributed freebies and information to thousands of older adults who visited the Illinois Building.



Longtime couples competed in the Not So Newlywed Game, testing how well they know each other after decades of marriage.

Scammers Targeting Digital Wallets to Steal Your Money Are on the Rise



Source: University of Illinois Chicago

Take a closer look at those text messages claiming to be your bank, it could be scam. A new alert released by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) says **scammers are targeting people's money by pretending to send texts from your bank.**

The BBB Scam Alert cautions that a text message people may receive looks like a fraud alert from their bank. The text will claim that there is some unusual activity in their account. It may read: "Bank Fraud Alert - Did you approve a transaction for \$1,000? Reply YES or NO."

Do not reply to the text, the BBB cautions. If you do, the scammer will know that it is an active number - and there is a person to scam.

The next step is someone who claims to be a bank representative will call from a number and caller ID that appears to be from the bank. The scammer will claim to be able to help stop the fraudulent charges.

The BBB says the caller will ask the victim to send money to themselves using Zelle or another digital wallet app. The scammer will then try to help their victim connect the app to their bank account and then ask them to verify the connection by sharing the code the bank sent.

Do not share the verification code. The scammer can set up an account with the victim's phone number and email but using **their** bank account information. If that happens, people who think they are sending money to themselves will actually be sending the money to the scammer.

The BBB says that disputing the charges will be difficult. Sending money through a digital wallet app is similar to using cash, making it very hard to get your money back.

How to avoid bank fraud scams

- Understand your bank's policies. Know that your bank will never ask you to send money to yourself. If someone tries to convince you otherwise, it's a scam.
- Watch out for fake caller IDs. Scammers can spoof caller ID names and numbers to make you think you are receiving a call from a reputable source. If you weren't expecting to be contacted by your bank, it's best to avoid answering. Instead, call the number on the back of your ATM card to confirm that there is an issue.
- Never share one-time passcodes. Scammers can use one-time passcodes from your bank or any other company to access your accounts and change information. Don't share them with anyone, no exceptions.
- Contact your bank if you suspect a scam. If you receive an unsolicited call, text, or email that you suspect is a scam, contact your bank immediately and let them know.

Don't reply to suspicious texts. Ignore any instructions to reply yes or no if you receive an unsolicited, suspicious text message. If you reply to a scammer, they could save your number

Employment Opportunities

Social Services Career Trainee

Work Location: Springfield

Salary: Anticipated starting salary \$4,412 monthly; full range \$4,412 - \$5,991

Application Deadline: August 21, 2024

Job Responsibilities:

1. Assists with complex technical on-site and desk reviews of current or prospective Community Care Program (CCP) Providers.
2. Completes non-compliance findings resulting from Community Care Compliance Reviews. Completes conditional contracts. Conducts follow-up reviews to ensure corrective action directed by the Department on Aging has been completed. Drafts reports and correspondence as directed on completed reviews. Utilizes digital reports to assist in review of CCP Providers. Aids and acts as a liaison for new and current CCP Providers to achieve or remain in compliance with federal and state regulations. Ensures compliance with Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) audit findings for CCP Providers.
3. Reviews and evaluates corrective action data taken by the department funded agencies to rectify non-compliance issues as noted in reports from providers or other units of the department. Adheres to Department established timelines regarding corrective action plans. Travels to various locations throughout the state to conduct program monitoring and provide technical assistance/trainings.
4. Assists with data collection activities per Department requirements. Provides consultation to CCP providers and ensures compliance with Agency guidance. Prepares reports and professional presentation materials on the service delivery.
5. Participates in planning meetings and other sponsored field activities and conferences pertaining to CCP programs and services with program and fiscal staff, service providers, and other partners within the Aging network.
6. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

[Apply here](#)

APS Coordinator Trainee (SSCT)

Work Location: Springfield or Chicago

Salary: Anticipated starting salary \$4,412 monthly; full range \$4,412 - \$5,991

Application Deadline: August 30, 2024

Job Responsibilities:

1. Assists Program Coordinators in monitoring the performance of Adult Protective Services provider agencies on the provision of services under the Adult Protective Services Act. Completes related analysis of the program services and tracks service billings to ensure accuracy. Consults with management personnel.
2. Travels to assist program coordinators in representing the Office of Adult Protective Services at quarterly provider meetings and regional fatality review team meetings.
3. Assists program coordinators in monitoring the performance of Adult Protective Service provider agencies on the reporting of demographic data required for the program's annual report. Provides consultation to provider agencies and ensures compliance with the statewide reporting system. Under guidance, prepares reports and public education materials on the Adult Protective Services Program.
4. Participates in planning meetings, state advisory committee meetings and other sponsored activities and conferences pertaining to adult protective services with staff, service providers, and other network partners.
5. Assists program coordinators in researching, tracking, and reporting on state and federal legislation. Provides assistance and timely support, identifies problems and makes recommendations for service improvements.
6. Performs other duties, as required, or assigned, which are reasonably within the scope

of the duties enumerated above.

[Apply here - Springfield](#)

[Apply here - Chicago](#)

Save the Date



On July 2, 2024, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [approved an 1115 Healthcare Transformation Waiver request](#) from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to provide new services addressing health-related social needs. This will allow the state to leverage Medicaid resources to **address root causes of health disparities**.

The approval includes support for **housing supports** (including medical respite/recuperative care services, as well as **transitions from carceral and institutional settings**) and **nutrition services**. The approval also includes coverage of services up to 90 days prior to release from carceral settings, as well as services to address substance use disorder, **employment supports for people with disabilities**, and **violence prevention and intervention**.

Join a town hall webinar with HFS Director Elizabeth M. Whitehorn and other HFS staff to learn about:

- Approval parameters
- Implementation planning efforts and timeline
- Initial results of stakeholder engagement
- Next steps and opportunities to provide feedback

Town Hall Webinar
HFS 1115 Healthcare Transformation Waiver Update
Monday, August 26
2 to 3 p.m.

[Register for the webinar](#)

The [Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging](#) will meet on **Wednesday, September 4 at 2 p.m.**

[Join via Webex](#)

For Aging Services Professionals:

September is National Senior Center Month, an opportunity to promote a positive image of aging, highlight how senior centers improve the lives of older adults, and create interest for potential participants and partners. This year's theme is "Powering Connections," and the National Council on Aging has a [toolkit](#) full of resources to help promote senior centers in your community. Start planning today so you're ready on September 1!



[Explore National Senior Center Month resources](#)

Items of Interest

[Schakowsky Celebrates Medicare, Medicaid 59th Anniversary At Niles Senior Center](#)

[New program aims to give Illinois senior providers LGBTQ+ competency training](#)

[Classes across the country help seniors interact with a world altered by AI](#)

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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