

RESPECT FOR  
YESTERDAY,  
SUPPORT FOR  
TODAY,  
PLAN FOR  
TOMORROW



## Aging Matters

June 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



Pride Month, held annually in June, is a time of celebration and reflection for the LGBTQ+ community worldwide, including the LGBTQ+ elders who led the [fight against unfair laws and treatment](#).

It may not surprise you that Gen Z adults identify as LGBTQ+ at much [higher rates](#) than older Americans. Even so, older adults are [well-represented](#) among Illinois' LGBTQ+ community. LGBTQ+ individuals 50 and older live in urban and rural areas across the state, are part of every racial and ethnic group, are veterans, are immigrants, and are living with disabilities.

Recognizing the unique challenges they face, the Department on Aging and our network partners are committed to ensuring that LGBTQ+ elders have access to affirming care and support.

In Illinois, more than 90 aging services providers are [SAGECare](#) certified, meaning their staff are trained in LGBTQ+ cultural competency. Several Area Agencies on Aging provide social programming for LGBTQ+ older adults and allies, and Illinois also has a governor-appointed [LGBTQ+ older adult advocate](#) who brings his lived experience to policy-making decisions.

For more information about [resources](#) for LGBTQ+ elders, contact the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 711 (TRS) or by email at [aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov](mailto:aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov).

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



# WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Elders

In 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) initiated World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

Designated as June 15, WEAAD was recognized as a United Nations Day by the General Assembly in its resolution [A/RES/66/127](#) adopted in 2011. The resolution invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe this day in an appropriate manner.

WEAAD provides an opportunity for cities across the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older people.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship, where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person." Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect.

In many parts of the world, elder abuse occurs with little recognition or response. Until recently, this serious social problem was hidden from the public view and considered mostly a private matter. Even today, elder abuse continues to be a taboo topic, mostly underestimated and ignored by societies across the world. Evidence is accumulating, however, to indicate that elder abuse is an important public health and societal problem.

Globally, the number of cases of elder abuse is projected to increase as many countries have rapidly aging populations whose needs may not be fully met due to resource constraints. It is predicted that by the year 2050, the global population of people aged 60 and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion, with the vast majority of older people living in low- and middle-income countries. If the proportion of elder abuse victims remains constant, the number of victims will increase rapidly due to population aging, growing to 320 million victims by 2050.

## **Elder abuse is preventable, and everyone has a role to play.**

### **The Public**

- Watch for [signs of elder abuse](#)
- Learn how to get help and [report abuse](#)

### **Older People**

- Stay connected to family and friends
- Learn more about your rights
- Use professional services for support where available
- Make sure your financial and legal affairs are in order

### **Family and Informal Caregivers**

- Lower your risk of committing abuse by learning ways to cope
  - Get help from family and friends
  - Take breaks
  - Get support from local health and social services



**Pictured:** IDoA staff in Springfield and Chicago wore purple this week for elder abuse awareness.

## Take Charge of Your Brain Health

By next year, the number of older Illinoisans living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia is projected to reach 260,000.

Experts believe there isn't a single cause of Alzheimer's. It's likely the disease develops as a

result of multiple factors. While not a direct cause of Alzheimer's, the greatest known risk factor is advancing age. Although some risk factors like age cannot be changed, others — including physical activity, not smoking, education, challenging your mind, blood pressure and diet — may be modified to reduce a person's risk.

This June, during [Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month](#), the Alzheimer's Association encourages all Americans to take charge of their brain health. Visit the link below to learn how.

[Five suggestions to take charge of your brain health](#)

## Honoring & Supporting Long-Term Survivors of HIV



As we celebrate Pride Month this year, honoring the resilience of people aging with HIV and raising awareness about the challenges they face becomes even more crucial. Not all long-term survivors of HIV identify as LGBTQ+, of course, but HIV [disproportionally impacts](#) segments of the LGBTQ+ community - most notably, gay and bisexual men of color.

It's also of note that [more than half](#) of the adults living with HIV in the U.S. are over 50 years old. By 2030, that number is projected to reach nearly 70% – a statistic unimaginable 30 years ago.

Medical advancements have made it possible for people living with HIV to lead long and healthy lives. However, aging with HIV brings [unique challenges and needs](#).

To address the needs of older Illinoisans living with HIV, the state's aging network must provide specialized care and support, says Jeff Berry, a member of the [Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging](#) and co-chair of its subcommittee on older adults living with HIV/AIDS and long-term survivors.

"Many of us who are living with HIV experience more comorbidities at an earlier age and more frequently" than the general population, Berry explained to *Aging Matters*. Because HIV causes chronic inflammation and damage to the immune system, older adults living with HIV are [more likely](#) to develop age-related conditions such as cancer or heart disease. "We need to have resources and providers who understand this, are looking for this, and are aware of this."

"We also, many of us long-term survivors, have a lot of psycho-social issues, especially those of us who have been living [with HIV] since the early days of the epidemic," said Berry. "We may have experienced a lot of loss and trauma, losing a whole network of friends, family, and lovers - a generation of people - to HIV and AIDS. It leads to increased anxiety and depression, increased rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, and we have poorer outcomes as a result. All of those things need to be addressed in addition to aging."

Berry added that some members of the community experience survivor's guilt, which can lead to or exacerbate social isolation. People in rural areas may also be geographically isolated, so "we need to find ways for them to connect in some way and offer opportunities for connection."

Connection is a core focus of [The Reunion Project](#) (TRP), a national alliance of HIV long-term survivors that Berry co-founded in 2015 and leads today.

Each year, TRP hosts several [town halls](#), which provide information and resources while honoring the unique stories of long-term survivors of HIV. The first day of programming typically focuses on navigating employment and educational opportunities. The second day becomes more interactive, with community members providing feedback, participating in breakout groups and collaborating on priority-setting for their region.

**Watch the keynote address and presentations from The Reunion Project's Chicago town hall, held on May 17 and 18.**

Like many TRP town halls, our interview with Berry ended with an empowering message.

"I always like to say that there's hope. Just like we came together in the darkest hours, in the early days of the epidemic, and supported each other, now is the time for us to come together again," said Berry. "It's going to take all of us working together, not just some of us more seasoned, or people who are in their golden years, so to speak."

***We all have the same goal, to one day be a long-term survivor.***

"We're always going to have a population of aging long-term survivors. Their needs may shift over time, but we need to pay close attention to them and learn from them, and have us be part of the solution."

Berry and other members of the Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging have been working to identify disparities in services for older Illinoisans living with HIV. Their input will be summarized in a March 2025 report to state lawmakers and will help guide the planning and development of Illinois' next three-year State Plan on Aging.

### **Additional Resources**

Read about the The Reunion Project's [history and vast reach](#).

**Watch a SAGE webinar: Demystifying the Older Americans Act for Older People Living with HIV.**

A recent regulatory [update to the federal Older Americans Act](#) updated the definition of greatest social need to include older adults living with HIV. SAGE, the the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older people, held a webinar to educate the HIV community about this important legislation - watch the recording [here](#).

**Listen to the Aging with HIV podcast series from [Beyond Generations](#).**

Episode 1 covers challenges and approaches to HIV care for older adults and features Scott Bertani, Director of Public Policy at [HealthHIV](#).

### Engage

Attend the next webinar in The Reunion Project's Long-term Survivor Toolkit Series. This webinar, focusing on heterosexual men living with HIV, will take place July 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. CT. Click [here](#) to register.

Attend an upcoming meeting of the [Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging](#), and/or read the commission's [March 2023 report](#) to the General Assembly.

[SAGE x HearMe](#) is compassionate LGBTQ+ support at your fingertips. Text one-on-one with trained empathetic listeners to get things off your chest, be seen, heard, and validated. Sign up [here](#).

## Shop Local Produce Through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program



**Coming Soon**

**Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) 2024**

**SHOP LOCAL PRODUCE**

Farmers market season is in full swing, and older adults may be able to get help buying fresh, local produce.

The [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) (SFMNP) offers income-eligible older adults

access to up to \$50 worth of locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey from certified farmers.

The SFMNP distributes free coupon books, each containing five \$10 SFMNP checks, to more than 28,000 low-income older Illinoisans annually. Eligible participants must be at least 60 years old and have a household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. For a single-person household, that amount is \$2,322 monthly. For a two-person senior household, the income threshold increases to \$3,151.

SFMNP checks can be used between July 10 and Oct. 31 at participating farmers markets and roadside stands in [37 Illinois counties](#). Participants can identify SFMNP vendors by looking for a yellow sign with black lettering indicating “farmers market nutrition program benefits accepted here.”

Checks will be distributed before the program start date on a first-come, first-served basis by 11 of Illinois’ 13 regional [Area Agencies on Aging](#) (AAAs) and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Along with their checks, participants receive a list of farmers markets and roadside stands where they can be exchanged for fresh fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs. Participants are also provided with nutrition education materials, which may include recipes and tips for using fresh produce.

Income-eligible older adults are encouraged to contact their local AAA for application instructions. Those living in Chicago should contact the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

[Contact your AAA](#)

## Employment Opportunities

### Account Technician II

**Work Location:** Springfield

**Salary:** Anticipated starting salary (effective 7/1/24) \$4,274 monthly; full range \$4,274 - \$5,991 monthly

**Application Deadline:** June 25, 2024

**Job Responsibilities:**

1. Posts all fiscal transactions to the appropriate accounting system as it pertains to appropriation allotments, obligations, vouchers, and requisitions – daily. Posts all receipts to the Department’s tracking system and prepares the deposit forms for submission to the Treasurer’s office. Assigns the proper funding sources and project codes to all requisitions, sub-orders, invoice vouchers, and contract of deliveries for the operational expenses of the agency.
2. Utilizes computer program to post/process Federal USDA Adult Day Care Nutrition program. Vouchers monthly reimbursement to ADC nutrition providers utilizing the appropriate accounting system and FNS report online to the federal government. Requests/maintains account funds for 30 and 90-day filing. Adjusts reconciliations to close out year-end agency reviews.
3. Coordinates travel for the Department in accordance with the Travel Control Board regulations. Responsible for all travel requests to be entered into the system, relocation, and changes in existing requests. Responsible for all processing of reimbursements, updating the procedures, and advising the offices of the changes.
4. Serves as the backup to the supervisor for operational projects on specific cash needs. Serves as the Department’s contact person for CMS online billings. (Facility Management Revolving Fund and State Garage). Reconciles the Comptroller’s cash balance report to the Department’s records monthly. Reconciles the Comptroller’s appropriation and expenditure reports to the Department’s records monthly.

5. Researches, documents, and process all accounts receivable for grant programs. Submits requests to the Attorney General with appropriate documentation requesting permission to write-off accounts receivable as needed.
6. Prepares daily voucher file for submission to the Comptroller. Maintains the voucher files for each fiscal year following current document management system and records retention procedures.
7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

[Apply here](#)

## **Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Manager**

**Work Location:** Springfield

**Salary:** \$8,500 - \$10,500 monthly

**Application Deadline:** June 25, 2024

### **Job Responsibilities:**

1. Serves as GATA Manager. Plans, organizes, and interprets audits and the financial information contained within or external to the audit. Assigns complex review and compliance of audits, financial statements, insurance requirements, and related items impacted by federal and state law as well as GATA to be completed by monitoring and compliance staff within the unit. Reviews the analysis, discusses with management corrective actions needed as well as explains all findings and opinions within. Creates, with the input of staff, a standardized process for the Agency to conform to 2 CFR 200 and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
2. Establishes internal controls over all grant funds, to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. Ensures proper reporting and properly presented financial information in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, governmental accounting standards board (GASB), and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Compiles the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards. Reviews and interprets federal and state laws, rules, regulations, accounting bulletins and implements new GASB standards.
3. Establishes agency GATA objectives working within the Statewide grants management system. Develops an implementation plan for all future phases of the grants management system. Develops long range plans, monitors progress of program, and provides financial monitoring. Motivates staff toward accomplishing goals and objectives within the system. Plans and develops internal GATA training.
4. Supervises staff, assigns and reviews work, provides guidance and training to assigned staff, and counsels staff regarding work performance by establishing annual goals and objectives. Prepares and signs performance evaluations. Reassigns staff to meet day-to-day operating needs, approves time off, adjusts first level grievances, and recommends and imposes discipline, up to and including discharge. Provides management with staffing needs and recommendations.
5. Develops and maintains ongoing communications with private and public organizations as well as officials of other agencies, other states, and the federal government. With delegated authority, as necessary, speaks for the Chief Accountability Officer to commit operational programs to specific courses of action. Identifies and discusses program projects, problems, and issues. Meets with representatives of programs and procurement staff of the Agency to discuss and develop best practices.
6. Continues education through formal and in-house training and obtains the required continuing professional education to maintain, improve, and broaden the knowledge, skills, competence, and proficiency of a Certified Public Accountant CPA.
7. Performs other duties, as required, or assigned, which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

[Apply here](#)

**Save the Date**





# Advocacy Breakfast Collaborative

AgeGuide, the Area Agency on Aging for northeastern Illinois, is hosting a series of community discussions about current issues facing older adults, caregivers, and families.

## CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION:

**Tuesday, June 18 | 10 a.m. to noon**  
**Will County Senior Services - The Ovation Center**  
349 Weber Rd. in Romeoville

**Thursday, June 20 | 10 a.m. to noon**  
**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago**  
**The Schreiber Center**  
101 N. Cedar Lake Rd. in Round Lake

**Friday, June 21 | 10 to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Virtual**

[Register now](#)



## Webinar on Supporting LGBTQ+ Inclusive Aging Networks

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. CT**

Join the ACL-funded [National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging](#) and [Thrive with Pride by AgeOptions](#) for an “office hours” webinar celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

The webinar will feature a discussion on LGBTQ+ inclusive programs and outreach and is intended for area agencies on aging, aging and disability resource centers, centers for independent living, ombudsman programs, Senior Medicare Patrol programs, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs, Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) programs, and community centers serving older adults.

The webinar will feature automated Zoom captioning. For more information or additional accessibility requests, please contact Sherrill Wayland (she/her/they) at [swayland@sageusa.org](mailto:swayland@sageusa.org).

[Register for the June 18 webinar](#)

## Thrive With Pride - Pride Month/June 25 Online Event

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 | 11 a.m.

Enjoy an LGBTQ+ "gallery tour" led by Molly Fulop, a longtime participant and research assistant for the Chicago-based LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Dialogue Project and doctoral student specializing in LGBTQ+ art education at UIC.

[Register for the June 25 online event](#)

The [Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council](#) will meet on Tuesday, July 23 at 3 p.m.

[Join via Webex](#)

## Items of Interest

[Meals on Wheels teams up with Plano eateries for special client menus](#)

[Choir links music and the mind for those with early-stage dementia](#)

[Foster Grandparents Program celebrates volunteers](#)

[IRS Warns Against Scams Targeting Illinois Seniors, Joins Other Federal Agencies To](#)

[Recognize Special Awareness Day](#)

[Illinois Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

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)**

