

RESPECT FOR
YESTERDAY,
SUPPORT FOR
TODAY,
PLAN FOR
TOMORROW



Aging Matters

Summer 2020 Newsletter from the Illinois Department on Aging

Office of Governor
JB Pritzker

**Be Socially
Engaged While
Practicing Social
Distancing**

**Long-Term Care
Facilities May
Allow Outdoor
Visitation**

**Looking For
Services?**

**Upcoming Webinar
Events**

Message From Director Paula Basta



Let me begin by acknowledging that we are truly in unprecedented times. With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing and renewed calls for justice and reform, it is imperative that we confront these ongoing problems. We work with people, and support communities and constituents of various races, ethnicities, religious affiliations and backgrounds. This is what we do; providing person-centered care to all of our older Illinoisans and supporting efforts to maintain their safety in their own homes. Our Aging Network, like all of our human service agencies, are here to comfort, serve, and support. While we must continue to act, I encourage us to also think deeply about why we are so necessary and how we can be a part of a systematic change. As Governor Pritzker has said, it is critical that we stand together to support each other during times like these regardless of our race or ethnic identity.

IDoA, our 13 Area Agencies on Aging, and 46 Care Coordination Units continue to work diligently to ensure that the services and supports provided will not be interrupted during the ongoing pandemic and civil unrest. If you or an older family member, friend, or neighbor are in need of any kind of assistance, please know we are here to help you. Please visit our website or contact our **Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (hearing impaired call 888-206-1327)** or by email aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.

[Read more messages from Director Basta](#)

2020 Senior Hall of Fame Awards - Extension
Deadline for nominations closes Monday, August 31



The Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame was created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1994 to honor Illinois residents ages 65 and older for their personal achievements in four separate categories. Since then, 121 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Exclusively for adults, 65 years of age and older, the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame Awards recognize adults and highlight the meaningful contributions they have made in Illinois. Award nominations are being accepted for the following categories:

- **Community Service:** awarded to Illinois senior citizens that have shown support for the general public and community-based programs in their area or at large.
- **Education:** awarded to Illinois senior citizens that have shown a dedication to instruction and the world of academia.
- **Labor Force:** awarded to Illinois senior citizens that have a record of accomplishment in their employment or professional career.
- **Performance / Graphic Arts:** awarded to Illinois senior citizens that have a commitment to health and the promotion of well-being or a record of accomplishment in artistic expression.

**Nominate Someone
Today**

Our Aging Network *Making Their Mark*



With the shelter in place order and the closure of restaurants, our Aging Network began enrolling an unprecedented number of new seniors requesting home delivered meals. Since March 30, our Aging Network has delivered over 2.5 million meals. During the month May alone, we delivered over 1 million meals. As a comparison, last year the Aging Network delivered 7.7 million meals over the course of 12 months.

Thank you to our Aging Network, employees, community partners, and other adults who have been supporting our seniors; individuals who have gone above and beyond during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We know that our organizations are continuously finding new and creative ways to provide services for our older Illinoisans, and we want to recognize these dedicated workers and share our - and your - gratitude for a job well done!

[View more of these stories #MakeYourMark](#)

The Montgomery County Mask Makers began making masks and to date have distributed **over 11,000 masks**. The group has distributed masks to local hospitals, nursing homes and various places worldwide. An 83 year-old mother has been one of the mask makers. Others in the community have contributed money, fabric, elastic, thread, and other materials. In times of trouble, **an incredible amount of creativity and collaboration has emerged** to move mountains for the betterment of others!

—Montgomery County Health Department, Hillsboro



One of our clients lives alone and is in our Social Isolation Program. The client does not have any family and has been very depressed about not getting out. One of our staff members **picked up our client, provided homemade masks for each of them, and they took a drive to a neighboring town's drive-through restaurant**. Another surprise outing is in the works!

—Strom Center, Inc., Mannmouth



Without timely meal delivery by the Chinese American Service League's Adult Day Service, **we could miss a meal or prepare an inadequate meal** because we are physically unable to cook, much less shop for groceries. Missing meals would result in lack of nutrition and poor health. I cannot thank CASL enough for their remote service!

—A senior client of the Chinese American Service League, Chicago



An elderly Latino couple, both diagnosed with COVID-19, was referred to the hospital. They were connected to Telehealth equipment and taught how to communicate through the equipment. Both the husband and wife are deaf, and the family only speaks Spanish. Fortunately, Diana Soto is bilingual and understands some sign language. The couple was re-admitted to the hospital where Diana's Spanish and sign language capabilities became extremely helpful to the couple's family who was desperately trying to finding out their parents' condition. For the duration of their hospital stay, Diana was able to help them stay connected with doctors and their loved ones. Once released, Diana was successful in helping them continue to manage their conditions. Both are now doing well in recovery. For many of these patients, ASI homecare aides, are the only people they see during quarantine which gives them hope for recovery.

—ASI Home Care, Chicago



Participants in our Retired Senior Volunteer Program have joined with **Letters Against Isolation** to write letters to homebound seniors to ease their loneliness. Now is a good time to remember older adults for what they provide, but also to keep in mind that there are older adults who may need something from us. A simple letter to an older family member, friend or neighbor can go a long way.

—Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, Inc., Carleville



Supporting LGBT Elders

June is Pride month and this year is undoubtedly a bit different. However, we encourage you to **#PrideInPlace!** Pride in Place is a way to celebrate Pride and the 50th anniversary of our country's first Pride March wherever you are. This is an affirmation - no matter where you are or what is going on in the world, pride is a state of mind, and will continue to flourish against all odds.

What does Pride in Place mean to you?

Taxes Due - Free Assistance Available

About 25% of people over 65 years of age still need to file their 2019 income taxes, which are due on **Wednesday, July 15**. Most Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP Tax-Aide programs, which provided free basic income tax return assistance, have suspended service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, here are some options that are available for those that still need some assistance:

- [AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Online](#), or call (888) 227-7669
- [LadderUP](#) primarily for low-to-moderate income families
- [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly](#), or call (800) 906-9887



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Illinois taxpayers can file their state returns for free at [MyTax Illinois](#). If you have income tax questions, email REV.TA-IIT@illinois.gov or call (800) 732-8866. Qualified taxpayers may also be eligible to participate in the IRS Free File program for federal returns ([source details here](#)).

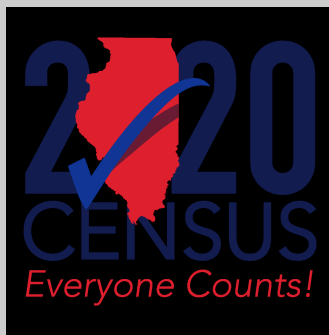
Call to set up an appointment at an open tax site nearest you:

Christian County	Christian County Senior Center, Taylorville	(217) 824-4263
Carroll County	Life Center of Carroll County, Carrollton	(217) 840-3845
Jefferson County	Wesley United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon	(815) 262-2079
Johnson County	Southern Pines Senior Center, Vienna	(815) 652-9600
McLean County	Activity and Recreation Center, Normal	(309) 466-9399
Macoupin County	Macoupin County Senior Center, Duquoin	(217) 426-2226
Madison County	Central Christian Church, Centerville	(815) 331-8800
Marion County	First Christian Church, Salem	(815) 740-1371
Menard County	Happy Home Senior Center, Menard	(815) 324-9755
Monroe County	Monroe County CFI Outreach, Sullivan	(217) 728-7721
Polk County	Shenandoah Development Council, Kansas	(815) 846-2251
Tazewell County	Major Senior Center, Tazewell	(815) 346-5210
Union County	Union County Senior Center, Union	(815) 347-7111
Williamson County	Williamson County Aging Programs, Mendon	(815) 940-1345

The first step toward an aging-related decision is to determine if you are eligible for assistance. For more information on services and programs, visit www.illinois.gov. The information on this page is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please consult with a professional for more information. Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois, Bureau of Information Systems (2020)

Illinois taxpayers can always file their state returns for free at [MyTax Illinois](#). If you have any income tax questions, email REV.TA-IIT@illinois.gov or call (800) 732-8866. Qualified

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Complete the 2020 Census Today

Responding to the 2020 Census is easy, safe, important, and key to shaping the future of our communities. The Census determines how much Illinois will receive in federal dollars for emergencies, education, healthcare, transportation and many other services. **We will lose \$1,400 in federal funds for each person who is not counted!** Illinois lost millions of dollars in the past 10 years

because of the 2010 Census undercount. The 2020 U.S Census is a priority, so why not take a few minutes to [#CountMeIn for the 2020 Census](#) while practicing social distancing at home. You can complete the Census online, by phone or by mail. **We All Count!**

Items of Interest

[Avoiding Burnout When You're Working from Home](#)

[Beware of Scams](#)

[Is Your Face Mask Getting in the Way of your Hearing Aid?](#)

[How Pandemic Stress Can Hurt Your Health](#)

[SAGE National LGBT Elder Hotline](#): 877-360-LGBT (5428)

[SAGEConnect](#): Matches LGBT elders with community members and allies for friendly calls and companionship. (929) 484-4160.

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; (888) 206-1327 (TTY)

