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LAWNDALE
NEWS

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WEST SIDE TIMES



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La Ciudad Lanza la Solicitud en Línea para One Summer Chicago



El Departamento de Servicios Familiares y de Apoyo de Chicago (DFSS) anunció el lanzamiento del portal de solicitudes One Summer Chicago (OSC) 2025, lo que marca otra importante expansión de las iniciativas de empleo juvenil de la Ciudad. One

Summer Chicago es un programa colaborativo de empleo juvenil que colabora con empresas locales, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y agencias municipales para brindar experiencias laborales remuneradas a jóvenes de 14 a 24 años durante seis semanas

durante el verano. El año pasado, 27,793 jóvenes obtuvieron empleo a través del programa One Summer Chicago (OSC) durante el verano de 2024, lo que representa un aumento del 12% con respecto al año anterior y un aumento del 39%. Entre todos los

socios del OSC, los participantes completaron 2.935 millones de horas de experiencia laboral y aprendizaje basado en proyectos. Los jóvenes ganaron casi \$41 millones en salarios.

One Summer Chicago Ofrece Tres Programas Clave:

- **Cuerpo de Servicio Juvenil de Chicago (CYSC):** Emplea a jóvenes de 16 a 24 años durante todo el año, enfocándose en el desarrollo de liderazgo y la participación cívica.
- **Chicagobility:** Involucra a jóvenes de 14 a 15 años en experiencias de aprendizaje basadas en proyectos y desarrollo de habilidades.

- **Programa de Empleo Juvenil de Verano (SYEP):** Ofrece oportunidades de inserción laboral y capacitación para jóvenes de 16 a 24 años para que desarrollen habilidades y adquieran experiencia profesional. Para obtener más información o para solicitar el programa, visite OneSummerChicago.org.

City Launches One Summer Chicago Online Application

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) announced the launch of the 2025 One Summer Chicago (OSC) application portal, marking another major expansion of the City's youth employment initiatives. One Summer Chicago is a collaborative youth employment program that partners with local businesses, nonprofits and city agencies to provide paid work experiences for young people ages 14-24 over six weeks during the summer. Last year, 27,793 young people were employed through the One Summer Chicago (OSC) program

during the summer of 2024, representing a 12 percent increase from the previous year and a 39 percent increase. Across all OSC partners, participants completed 2.935M hours of work experience and project-based learning. Youth earned nearly \$41M in wages.

One Summer Chicago Offers Three Key Programs:

- **Chicago Youth Service Corps (CYSC):** Employs youth ages 16-24 year-round, focusing on leadership development and civic engagement.
- **Chicagobility:** Engages youth ages 14-15 in project-based learning and skill-building experiences.



- **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):** Provides job placements and training opportunities for youth ages 16-24 to build skills and gain career experience. For more information or to apply, visit OneSummerChicago.org.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Enjoy the many shades of emerald green this weekend, as the City of Chicago celebrates St. Patrick's Day with the historic Chicago River dye.



Here are just a few ways to make the most of St. Patrick's Day weekend. **Chicago River Dyeing** The annual Chicago River dyeing is one of the most unique St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the world. Typically held the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day (the same day as the downtown parade), this bucket-list event is a beloved tradition that dates back over half a century. The green river dyeing starts at 10 a.m.

St. Patrick's Day Parade The 70th annual Chicago

St. Patrick's Day Parade is one of the largest in the country and the centerpiece of the city's unforgettable St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Catch the festive procession on Columbus Drive between Balbo Drive and Monroe Drive.

St. Patrick's Day River Cruises

Delight in the emerald green river from the best seats in the house. Chicago's river cruises offer a one-of-a-kind perspective of the day's festivities. Watch the waters turn green, enjoy themed cocktails and Irish cuisine, hear live bagpipe music, and wave at the thousands of spectators lining the river's banks.

Illinois Overdose Deaths on Decline



The Administration of Governor JB Pritzker announced that Illinois recorded an 8.3 percent drop in overall drug overdose deaths in 2023, exceeding a nationwide decline of 4 percent. Specifically, opioid overdose deaths declined 9.7 percent in the state, compared to 3 percent nationally. The new data shows 3,502 overdose deaths in Illinois from all causes in 2023, 317 fewer than in 2022. The new data comes as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) unveiled an expanded Overdose Data Dashboard that shares more data and makes the tool easier to use for both researchers and the general public. Looking just at opioids, there were 2,855 fatalities attributed

to opioid overdoses in Illinois in 2023, 305 fewer than 2022, a decrease of 9.7 percent. In 2022, total overdose deaths in Illinois increased 5.1 percent from 2021, and deaths involving opioids were up 8.2 percent. IDHS has distributed 1 million 2-dose boxes of Narcan (generically called naloxone) to community-based organizations, substance use disorder treatment centers, harm reduction organizations, hospitals, and clinics across Illinois in the last four years. If you or someone you know has an opioid use disorder, there is help, including treatment,

available immediately, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With the Medication Assisted Recovery Now (MAR NOW) service, a care manager can help callers determine the best treatment options and connect them to a provider for an immediate telephone appointment and medication prescription. To connect with a MAR NOW care manager, visit the Illinois Helpline online at <https://helplineil.org>, call 833-234-6343, or text "HELP" to 833234. For more information on opioids, visit <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/opioids.html>.



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Giannoulas: Secretary of State's REAL ID Supercenter Is Open for Business

To meet the unprecedented demand for REAL IDs, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas announced expanded service across Illinois with Wednesday's opening of its REAL ID Supercenter in Chicago's Loop and its REAL ID Saturday's program offering weekend hours statewide through May 10.

•The REAL ID Supercenter, equipped with 30 individual service counters, is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 191 N. Clark St. in Chicago. **The supercenter offers non-appointment, walk-in services Monday through Friday**

•The 'REAL ID Saturday' facilities are open on

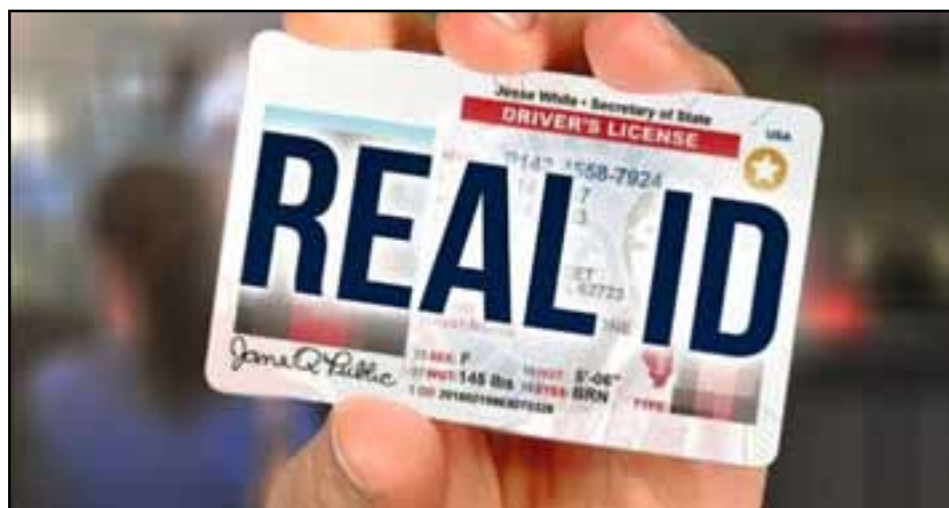
Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Chicago West (5301 W. Lexington Ave.) and the following suburban facilities: Addison, Aurora, Des Plaines, Elgin, Joliet, Lake Zurich, Melrose Park, Plano, St. Charles, Waukegan and Woodstock. **These DMVs offer non-appointment, walk-in services on Saturdays.**

•Six DMV appointment-only locations have expanded Saturday hours to 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Chicago North (5401 N. Elston Ave.), Deerfield, Lombard, Naperville, Schaumburg and Springfield (Wabash Avenue). **Appointments at these facilities must be made in advance.**

•Nine appointment-only

facilities are operating from 7:30 a.m. to Noon on Saturdays: Bloomington, Champaign, Chicago South (9901 S. Martin Luther King Dr.), Granite City, Marion, Midlothian, Peoria, Rockford (Central) and Silvis. **Appointments at these facilities must be made in advance.**

Giannoulas is encouraging Illinoisans to use the office's designated multilingual "Get A REAL ID" portal on its website – realid.ilsos.gov – to determine: 1) if they need a REAL ID before the May 7 federal enforcement period begins; and 2) how to find a walk-in location or schedule an appointment near them.



Villa, LaPointe Host Press Conference on Equity in Behavioral Health Care Services

State Senator Karina Villa stood alongside State Representative Lindsey LaPointe and fellow legislators and advocates to call for equity in mental health and substance use treatment. Senate Bill 55, with corresponding House Bill 1085, would require insurers to cover medically necessary

out-of-network mental health and substance use benefits as if they were in-network. The measures would also set minimum reimbursement rates for care providers for proper compensation of their services and incentivize providers to join insurance networks. According to the Illinois Chapter of

the National Alliance on Mental Health, over 1.7 million adults in Illinois live with a mental health condition. Additionally, 61.8 percent of Illinoisans aged 12-17 who have depression did not receive care according to 2021 data. House Bill 1085 passed the House Mental Health and Addiction Committee Thursday.

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City of Chicago Unveil Monthly Workforce Vacancy Data



The City of Chicago's Office of Budget and Management (OBM) is proud to announce the launch of its Workforce Vacancy Data Dashboard on OBM's website. This interactive tool provides an accessible, user-friendly way to explore and filter vacancy data across all City departments. For the first time, this data will be updated on the first of each month and publicly

available in an intuitive format that enhances visibility and usability. The underlying data is also be available on the City of Chicago's Open Data Portal for those who need full datasets. This forward-thinking initiative, designed to enhance transparency and accountability across City departments, not only aligns with data transparency best practices

but also responds directly to aldermanic requests for enhanced accessibility to budget data – giving City officials the ability to better evaluate staffing and key financial insights ahead of the annual budget season. The underlying data can also be downloaded on the City's Open Data Portal. For more information about the portal, visit www.data.cityofchicago.org.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul Challenges Federal Termination of K-12 Teacher Preparation Pipeline Grants

Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of eight attorneys general in opposition to the Trump administration's termination of grant funding for K-12 teacher preparation programs. Beginning in mid-February, Illinois institutions received letters from the Department of Education purporting to terminate grants providing at least \$13.4 million in critical funding to address the state's ongoing teacher shortage through teacher preparation programs. Congress established and allocated funding pursuant to the Teacher Quality Partnership and Supporting Effective Educator Development grant programs to train teachers, create a new teacher pipeline and improve teacher quality. The U.S. Department of Education

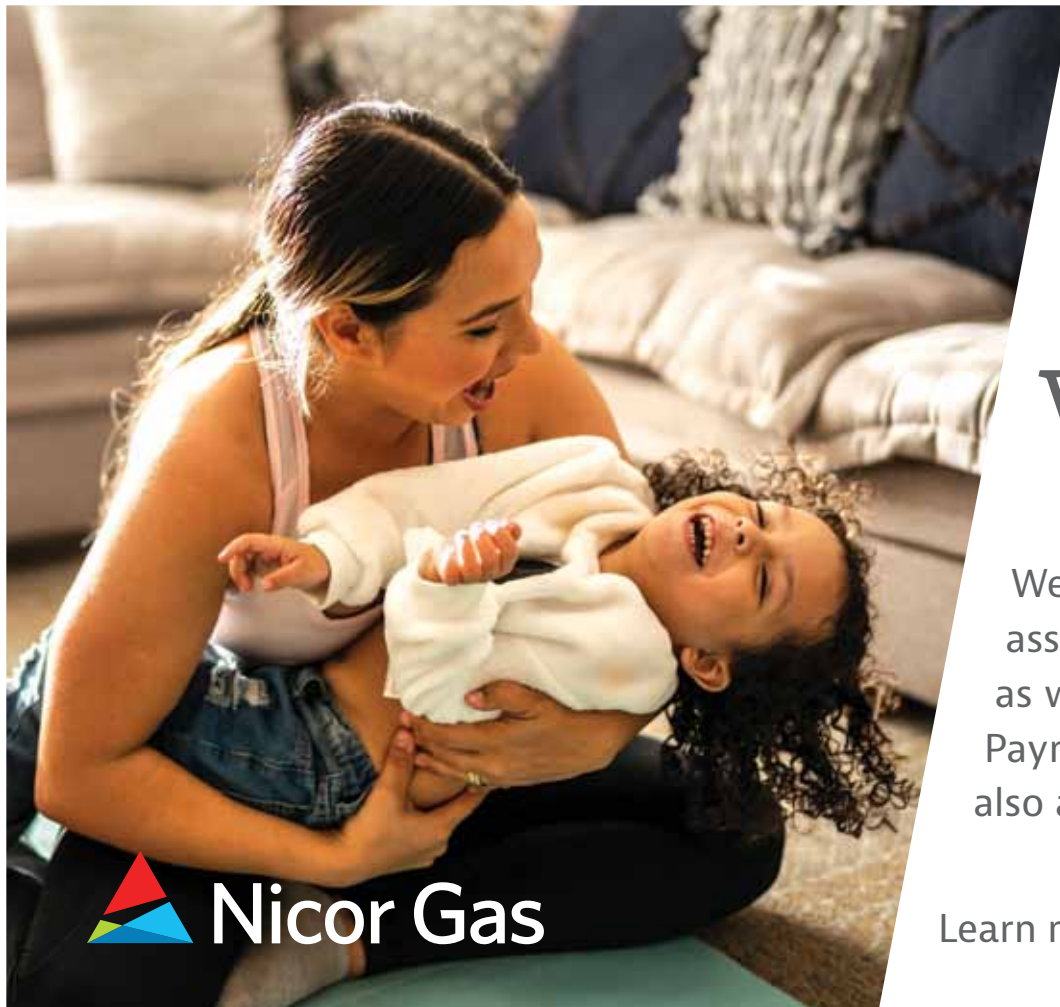
subsequently awarded and obligated funds to states' public universities, school districts and associated nonprofits grants under these programs to do exactly what Congress mandated – create a pipeline for teachers serving rural and urban communities to teach harder-to-fill positions like math and science. The programs have been shown to increase teacher retention rates and ensure that educators remain in the profession beyond the crucial first five years. Impacted programs in Illinois include:

- Teacher Education Alliance Model ("TEAM"), a partnership between Cook County School District 104, Maywood–Melrose Park–Broadview School District 89 and Chicago State University that has a goal to prepare 300 apprentice teachers for



employment in high-needs schools in communities like Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Broadview, Maywood, Melrose Park and Summit.

- Pre-Service Teaching Equity Project ("P-STEP"), a program created by the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to better recruit, prepare, develop and retain a strong teacher workforce by supporting 300 student teachers every year, placing them at hard-to-staff CPS schools and improving their experience so they are more likely to accept full-time employment.



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Villa y LaPointe ofrecen conferencia de prensa sobre equidad en los servicios de salud mental



La senadora estatal Karina Villa se reunió con la representante estatal Lindsey LaPointe y otros legisladores y defensores para exigir equidad en el tratamiento de la salud mental y el abuso de sustancias. El Proyecto de Ley del Senado 55, junto con el Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes 1085, exigiría a las aseguradoras cubrir los beneficios de salud men-

tal y abuso de sustancias médicamente necesarios fuera de la red como si estuvieran dentro de la red. Las medidas también establecerían tasas mínimas de reembolso para los proveedores de atención médica, con el fin de garantizar una compensación adecuada por sus servicios e incentivarlos a unirse a las redes de seguros. Según la Sección de Illinois de la Alianza Nacional para

la Salud Mental, más de 1.7 millones de adultos en Illinois viven con una afección de salud mental. Además, el 61.8% de los habitantes de Illinois de entre 12 y 17 años que padecen depresión no recibieron atención, según datos de 2021. El Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes 1085 fue aprobado el jueves por el Comité de Salud Mental y Adicciones de la Cámara de Representantes.

STAC Opens Application Process for 2025 - 2026 STAC Fund College Scholarship

The Security Traders Association of Chicago, a membership organization for individual professionals in the securities industry in Chicago and an affiliate of The Security Traders Association (STA), is now accepting applications for its STAC Fund Scholarship program for the 2025 - 2026 academic year. The STAC Fund Scholarship aims to provide financial assistance to students who are interested in careers in finance, trading and capital markets. Through this initiative, STAC continues its commitment to fostering the next generation of industry professionals by supporting their educational aspirations.



The program is open to all Chicago area students regardless of any STAC affiliation. STAC members, their spouses and/or their dependent children are also eligible, but relationship to a STAC member is not required to apply. Completed applications and all

supporting documents must be submitted online through the STAC website. The digital application and full eligibility requirements are available, and applications will be accepted through April 24, 2025. For more information, visit www.stachicago.org

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Maria Pappas

Column

Your Property Taxes with Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas

Property Tax Exemptions: How Homeowners and Seniors Can Save on Taxes



By Maria Pappas

Property taxes can be a financial burden, but exemptions can help reduce those costs by offering significant savings to property owners. There are three exemptions that do the most good for the most people. They are the Homeowner Exemption, the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption and the Senior Freeze Exemption. The Cook County Treasurer's Office is dedicated to helping residents apply for these exemptions to lower their property tax bills. First, check the exemptions you're receiving by visiting cookcountytreasurer.com and clicking on the purple box labeled Your Property

Tax Overview. Search using your address or 14-digit Property Index Number (PIN). If you use your address, simply enter your house number and street name. Do not include north, south, east or west. A picture of your property – home, business or land should appear, so you know you've found the right place. Scroll down and you should also see a grid with your exemptions. If the word "No" appears, as seen in this example grid, you could be leaving significant money on the table. To turn some of those "Nos" into yeses, let's look at our major exemptions.

Homeowner Exemption: This is the granddaddy of exemptions, with most property owners qualifying. This lowers property taxes for homeowners who occupy their home as their primary residence for at least a year. First-time applicants must have lived in the property as of January 1 of the tax year in question. The exemption renews automatically each year unless the property is sold. Check your status online and apply for any missed Homeowner exemptions

from the past four years. **Senior Citizen Exemption:** Homeowners applying for Senior Citizen Homestead Exemptions for the first time are eligible if they're 65 or older and own and occupy their property as their principal place of residence. If a married couple jointly owns a home, they're eligible when the older partner is 65. To receive this exemption, the applicant must have owned and occupied the property as of January 1 and must have been 65 years of age or older during the tax year in question. That means many homeowners who turned 65 in 2023 are now eligible for this tax break for the first time. They should apply now so the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption savings can be reflected on their 2024 Second Installment bills due later this year.

Senior Freeze Exemption: Applicants must meet age and income requirements to qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption. Seniors aged 65 and older with an annual household income of \$65,000 or less are eligible. You must have owned and occupied the home on January 1 of the tax year in

question. This exemption "freezes" the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of the property the year that the senior citizen qualifies for the benefit, insulating the senior from soaring property taxes that come with rising EAVs. Unlike other exemptions, you must re-apply for the Senior Freeze every year since income levels can change.

How to Apply for Exemptions and Refunds: Apply for these exemptions online at cookcountytreasurer.com where you can search for yourself or anyone else. Verify that you're receiving the exemptions you're entitled to and apply for any you've missed. Remember, you can apply for any missed exemptions going back four years. Don't miss out on valuable tax breaks. Homeowners and seniors who qualify can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars annually. Visit the Cook County Treasurer's website to start the application process today as it might lessen your financial burden.

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by supporting their educational aspirations. The program is open to all Chicago area students regardless of any STAC affiliation. STAC members, their spouses and/or their dependent children are also eligible, but relationship to a STAC member is not required to apply. Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted online through the STAC website. The digital application and full eligibility requirements are available, and applications will be accepted through April 24, 2025. For more information, visit www.stachicago.org

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