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NEWS



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# Healthy Illinois Campaign Applauds Funding for Immigrant Health Coverage Programs



Early Wednesday morning, the Illinois General Assembly passed the FY25 state budget, which includes a record amount of funding for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults and Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors programs. Total funding for both programs is estimated at \$629 million, which includes \$440 million from the General Revenue Fund and \$189 million from federal reimbursements and other sources. This is a nearly 15

percent increase in funding from FY24, when the programs were funded at \$550 million. "We applaud the Illinois General Assembly, in conjunction with Gov. JB Pritzker, for passing much needed funding for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults and Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors programs that support healthier families and boost our economy as a whole. This funding level should ensure that the nearly 70,000 people enrolled

in either program will not be forced off of their much-needed coverage, a significant victory for undocumented Illinoisans who rely on this life-saving healthcare as well as for the healthcare and immigrant advocates who have fought for these critical programs for years." Created in 2020, the HBIS program provides health coverage to undocumented individuals aged 65 and older who would be eligible for Medicaid but for their immigration status. The

HBIA program provides similar coverage for individuals aged 42 to 64.

Generally, asylum seekers do not qualify for HBIA or HBIS, but may qualify

for other health coverage programs from the state or federal government.

## La campaña Healthy Illinois Aplaude la Financiación de Programas de Cobertura Sanitaria para Inmigrantes

Temprano el miércoles por la mañana, la Asamblea General de Illinois aprobó el presupuesto estatal para el año fiscal 25, que incluye una cantidad récord de fondos para los programas de Beneficios de salud para adultos inmigrantes y Beneficios de salud para inmigrantes mayores. El financiamiento total para ambos programas se estima en \$629 millones, que incluyen \$440 millones del Fondo de Ingresos Generales y \$189 millones de reembolsos federales y otras fuentes. Se trata de un aumento de casi el 15 por ciento en la financiación con respecto al año fiscal 24, cuando los programas se financiaron con 550 millones de dólares. "Aplaudimos a la Asamblea General de Illinois, en conjunto con



el Gobernador JB Pritzker, por aprobar fondos muy necesarios para los programas de Beneficios de Salud para Adultos Inmigrantes y Beneficios de Salud para Inmigrantes Mayores que apoyan a familias más saludables e impulsan nuestra economía en su conjunto. Este nivel de financiación debería garantizar que las casi 70.000 personas inscritas en cualquiera de los programas no se vean obligadas a perder su tan necesaria cobertura, una victoria significativa para los residentes indocumentados de Illinois que dependen de esta atención médica que les salva vidas, así como

para los defensores de la atención médica y de los inmigrantes que Hemos luchado por estos programas críticos durante años". Creado en 2020, el programa HBIS brinda cobertura médica a personas indocumentadas de 65 años o más que serían elegibles para Medicaid si no fuera por su estatus migratorio. El programa HBIA brinda una cobertura similar para personas de 42 a 64 años. Generalmente, los solicitantes de asilo no califican para HBIA o HBIS, pero pueden calificar para otros programas de cobertura médica del gobierno estatal o federal.

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## Cook County's 16th District Receives Over \$4M in Infrastructure Investment



During the May Board of Commissioners meeting, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved funding for construction projects through the Build Up Cook program. These projects include critical water infrastructure improvements such as water main repairs, pump replacements, backup generator replacements, hydrant replacements and valve repairs. The projects also include public building facility repairs, exterior repairs and roof replacements. Thirteen projects received \$4,050,000 in funding throughout 16th District municipalities. Projects being funded within the 16th District include improvements to sewers, replacing backup generators, sidewalk repair, and more. Construction on projects can begin immediately and is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. Through the work of the Build Up Cook Intergovernmental Working

Group, 46 capital project needs were identified in 22 communities. These projects address needs for critical improvements in drinking water and stormwater infrastructure as well as other public buildings and facilities. With board approval to execute up to 25 Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with these communities, Build Up Cook will be able to move forward with procurements and project completion. A list of projects within the 16th District can be found below, with the Build Up Cook program funding amount in parentheses:

- Bellwood:** Pump Houses and Storm Water Pumps Backup Generators (\$450,000)
- Broadview:** Fire House Building Improvements (\$500,000)
- Broadview:** Main Water Line - Valves Replacement (\$150,000)
- Cicero:** Cicero Animal Shelter Backup Generator Quick Connect (\$150,000)

- Cicero:** Annex Building Backup Generator Replacement (\$150,000)
- Cicero:** Water Valve Replacements (\$1,200,000)
- Maywood:** Police Station Backup Generator Replacement (\$150,000)
- Maywood:** Pump House Backup Generator Replacement (\$150,000)
- Maywood:** Police Station Mechanical Upgrade (\$200,000)
- Stickney:** Sidewalk Repair/Replacement Throughout Various Locations (\$400,000)
- Stickney:** Pump Station Renovation/Pump Replacement (\$200,000)
- Summit:** Sewer Jetting (\$150,000)
- Summit:** Sewer Lining (\$200,000)
- Total: \$4,050,000**

**Funding 13 Projects**  
More information, as well as a comprehensive list of the municipalities and projects approved through IGAs in this program, is available at <https://arpa.cookcountyil.gov/build-up-cook>



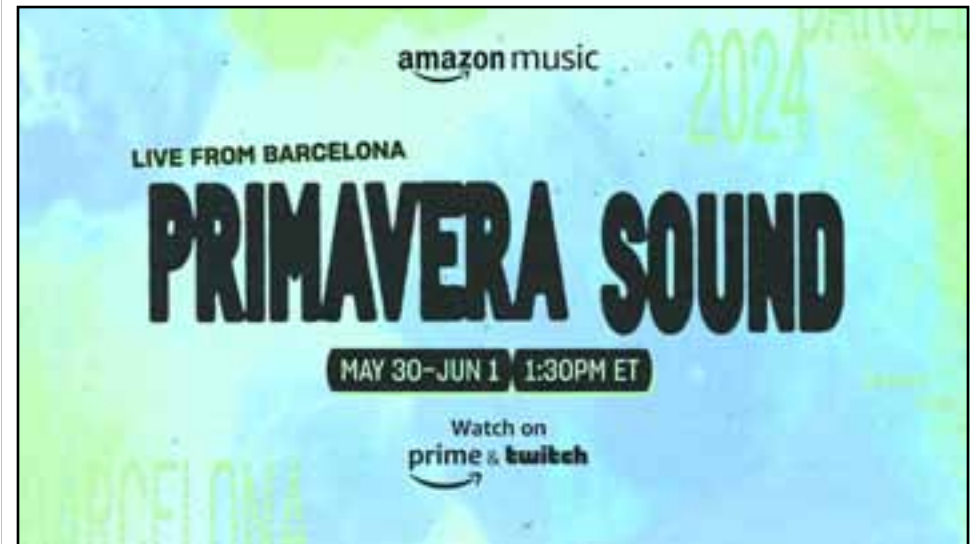
## Chicago Public Schools Celebrates the Start of Summer with Programming

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students, staff, and parents will conclude another record-breaking school year on June 6. This year, CPS elementary students received national recognition for posting academic growth in reading and math and the Class of 2024 earned more than 55,000 hours of college credit and more than a billion dollars in scholarships to date. The District is now opening registration for a robust array of summer enrichment, transition, and partner programming opportunities that will help students continue learning, exploring their

interests, and enjoying time with each other until school resumes on August 26. CPS schools offer summer programming in three categories; academic, enrichment, and transition. The academic-based programs provide students with extra support in mastering essential concepts in core subjects and the largest of these programs is known as "Summer Bridge," a program open to all CPS students, but specifically targeting those children who need extra academic support. The curriculum includes the core subjects of math and reading, but also hands-on experiences

in both science and social studies. In addition, the District partners with city agencies and organizations to expand summer CPS' summer meal program, LunchStop, runs Monday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from June 24 to August 9 at select locations families can visit [cps.edu/summermeals](http://cps.edu/summermeals) for more info. Additionally, all students enrolled in summer programming at a CPS school and any children who live in the area served by the summer program are eligible for meals during meal service times. For more information or to register, visit [www.cps.edu](http://www.cps.edu)

## Amazon Music Announces Livestreaming Line Up for Primavera Sound



Amazon Music announces the first confirmed artists that will be livestreamed from Primavera Sound Barcelona, sponsored by CUPRA. The streaming service will exclusively produce and broadcast the livestream of select performances from the 22nd edition of Primavera Sound, taking place from 30<sup>th</sup> May until 1<sup>st</sup> June at Parc del Forum in Barcelona. From the 30<sup>th</sup> of May until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, music lovers will be able to tune in to performances

from artists including; *American Football, Amyl and the Sniffers, Arab Strap, Atarashii Gakko!, Balming Tiger, Barry Can't Swim, Bikini Kill, Blonde Redhead, Charli XCX, C!ipse, Derby Motoreta's, Burrito Kachimba, Dillom, Disclosure, Dorian Electra, El Mató a un Policía Motorizado, Ethel Cain, Justice, Maria Hein, Militarie Gun, Mount Kimbie, Mujeres, Omar Apollo, among others.* Festival-goers and music fans around the world will

be able to tune in to the Amazon Music channels on Twitch and Prime Video from 19:30 CEST each day to experience the excitement of the festival, performances and behind-the-scenes content from wherever they are. Festival-goers will be able to make use of Amazon's Lockers, allowing them to purchase items on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and have them delivered directly to the site.

**Photo Credit: Amazon Music**

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago will be accepting applications for the following classification(s):

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## Commissioner Cardenas Congratulates the Illinois Department of Revenue on Equalization Factor Bringing Stability to Cook County Taxpayers

Board of Review Commissioner George Cardenas says that Cook County taxpayers can find solace in the recent announcement from the Illinois Department of Revenue regarding the final 2023 property tax equalization factor of 3.0163. This critical multiplier ensures fairness in property assessments across Illinois, reinforcing the stability and integrity of our property tax system. The equalization factor, mandated annually by state law, is a key instrument in maintaining uniformity in property assessments. It represents a meticulous comparison between actual property sales and the



assessed values determined by county assessors. The 2023 figure reflects a three-year assessment period, aligning Cook County's average assessment level to the state-required 33 1/3 percent. Cook County's property assessments follow specific guidelines: homes, condominiums, and small apartment buildings are assessed at

10 percent of their market value, similar to vacant lots and larger residential properties. Not-for-profit entities and commercial and industrial properties are assessed at 25 percent, while incentives are in place to assess commercial or industrial development in economically struggling areas at a mere 10 percent.

## California Man Indicted on Federal Fraud Charges for Allegedly Swindling Suburban Chicago Resident out of \$2M

A California man has been indicted on federal fraud charges for allegedly swindling a suburban Chicago resident out of \$2 million. Raymond Echavez Villamor, 60, of Newport Beach, Calif., is charged with five counts of wire fraud in an indictment returned in U.S. District Court in Chicago. Each count is punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison. Villamor pleaded not guilty to the charges during his arraignment Monday before U.S. Chief Magistrate Judge Young B. Kim. The indictment was announced by Morris Pasqual, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Robert W. "Wes" Wheeler, Jr., Special Agent-in-Charge of the



Chicago Field Office of the FBI. The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared Hasten. The officials noted that the investigation remains ongoing. According to the indictment, Villamor operated a company called Rainbwork, LLC. Over the course of six months last year, Villamor fraudulently solicited, obtained, and retained an investment of approximately \$2 million from an individual residing in Glenview, Ill., the indictment states. Villamor made false representations about the performance and value of the investment,

and falsely promised to repay all of it – with an added return – within a specified period of time, even though he knew he did not have the capability to do so, the indictment states. Villamor misappropriated the victim's money to pay for personal expenses, including vehicle purchases, the indictment states. The public is reminded that an indictment is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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# Attorney General Raoul Urges Department of Education to Implement Regulations to Provide Debt Relief to Federal Student Loan Borrowers



Attorney General Kwame Raoul joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general calling on the U.S. Department of Education to swiftly implement its recently proposed regulations that would provide needed relief for some of the

nation's most burdened student loan borrowers. In their comment letter to the department, Raoul and the coalition of attorneys general urge the implementation of regulations that would waive or reduce student

loan repayments for certain groups of federal student loan borrowers. Raoul and the coalition underscore the critical need for meaningful debt relief to address the nationwide student debt crisis, which disproportionately

burdens low-income borrowers and borrowers of color. Specifically, the department's proposed regulations are designed to provide critical debt relief to:

- **Borrowers who have seen their student loan balances balloon through accrued and capitalized interest, and borrowers with older loans.** These borrowers have been especially burdened by the misconduct of student loan servicers and the department's previous misguided policy choices.
- **Borrowers who attended a school that failed to meet its obligations to students.** Under the proposed regulations, the department will provide debt relief to borrowers who attended schools that lost their Title IV eligibility because of institutional

problems related to student outcomes, and schools that failed to provide sufficient value to their students according to departmental determinations. These borrowers did not get the benefit of the education they were promised for the federal loans they took out and should not be left holding the bag for institutional failures.

- **Borrowers who would**

have been eligible for relief under other federal student loan programs, such as income-driven repayment plans and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, but have not successfully enrolled in these programs, often due to the difficulties they face navigating the complex federal loan repayment system.



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