

Sunday Edition



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NEWS



Sunday, January 26, 2025

WEST SIDE TIMES

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P.O. BOX 50599, CICERO, IL 60804 • 708-656-6400

ESTABLISHED 1940

Violence Prevention RFP Now Open



Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is inviting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from organizations to enhance trauma-informed victim services across the city. The initiative will expand

support available to those affected by violence, by integrating existing community outreach efforts. The key aims will include building a network of victim support organizations in 15 priority

areas, strengthening trauma-informed support for victims and survivors of violence, and promoting cohesion among initiatives to improve service delivery. Assistance, both practical and emotional, will focus

on 11 of these community areas, and financial relief can be accessed through the Emergency Supplemental Victims Fund. All suppliers are required to register under the iSupplier portal at www.cityofchicago.org/eProcurement prior to reviewing and submitting a proposal. Upon registering, organizations may review and respond to the RFP application here: City of Chicago eProcurement Solicitations. The deadline

for questions or concerns about proposals is Tuesday January 21, 2025, at 5 p.m. CST. All proposals are due no later than Monday, February 10, 2025, at noon.

due no later than Monday, February 10, 2025, at noon.

'Ready for Round 2,' Congresswoman Ramirez to Serve as Ranking Member in VA Subcommittee



Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez (IL-03) announced she will serve as Ranking Member for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee during the 119th Congress. Congresswoman Ramirez returns to the committee after successfully introducing and passing legislation to restore education benefits for defrauded veterans during the last Congress. "The Trump Administration and DOGE's mission to paint vital VA services as a money drain is not a coincidence. There is

a laser-focused effort to privatize and dismantle the best blueprint we have to implement people-centered policies popular among working Americans – from health care to housing to education. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I am ready to fight against their efforts to dismantle the organized labor force, divert money to the pockets of Trump's billionaire friends, and convince us that healthcare and housing for all are impossibilities," said Congresswoman Ramirez. The Subcommittee

on Oversight and Investigations has oversight and investigative jurisdiction over veterans' matters generally, information technology and procurement generally, and over such matters as may be referred to the Subcommittee by the Chair of the full Committee for its oversight or investigation and for its appropriate recommendations. The Subcommittee has legislative jurisdiction over such bills or resolutions as may be referred to it by the Chair of the full Committee. **Photo Credit: Office of Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez**

Familias y Escuelas de Illinois se Unen para Celebrar la Semana de la Elección Escolar

Las familias que buscan una nueva opción de educación K-12 este otoño pueden ver sus alternativas y comenzar el proceso de escoger a través de eventos familiares que tienen lugar en todo el estado este enero. Las escuelas y organizaciones de Illinois están planeando 1,049 celebraciones en los más de 27,000 eventos que tienen lugar a nivel nacional para celebrar el 15° aniversario de la Semana Nacional de Alternativa Escolar. La alternativa escolar permite a las familias seleccionar el ambiente de aprendizaje que funcione mejor para sus hijos, ya sea la tradicional escuela pública, la escuela pública charter, la escuela pública magnet, la escuela privada, el aprendizaje en línea, la escuela en la casa o la microes-



cuela. Con opciones que se extienden en muchos lugares, los padres están en mejor posición que nunca de encontrar donde sus hijos aprendan, prosperen y triunfen. Un estudio de enero del 2025 conducido por National School Choice Awareness reveló que más del 60 por ciento de padres exploraron nuevas escuelas para sus hijos en los últimos 12 meses, destacando la alta demanda para opciones de educación para

K-12 en 2024. La Semana Nacional de Alternativa Escolar tiene lugar en enero cada año para animar a las familias a empezar pronto sus investigaciones escolares; la semana concientiza y comparte información práctica para que los padres exploren sus opciones locales en K-12. Para descargar una guía o encontrar una celebración cerca a usted para cobertura de fotos, visite schoolchoiceweek.com/illinois.



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Reconocen por Tercer Año a la Ciudad de Chicago Como una de las Pioneras en Inclusión Digital de la Nación



National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) nombró a la ciudad de Chicago como pionera visionaria de la inclusión

digital en 2024 Este programa nacional reconoce los esfuerzos de la ciudad por cerrar la división digital. Reconociendo la varie-

dad de intereses y barreras únicas de los miembros de su comunidad, Chicago se une este año a un número récord de Pioneros de la

Inclusión Digital. NDIA premió a un total de 60 ganadores en representación de gobiernos municipales, del condado y regionales, allanando el camino para comunidades digitalmente inclusivas en todo Estados Unidos. Chicago fue nombrado Pionero Visionario por su profunda integración a la inclusión digital en toda la gobernanza de la ciudad y por encabezar el camino en la innovación a la inclusión digital. Chicago es una de 34 comunidades de Estados Unidos que recibe esta prestigiosa designación. La Ciudad de Chicago logró el estatus de Pionero Visionario por hacer una prioridad la inclusión digital para los residentes de sus comunidades a través de:

- La ampliación del programa Chicago Connected de pre-K a través de 12 estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Chi-

cago, brindando acceso de banda ancha gratuito a más de 40.000 estudiantes este año académico.

- El lanzamiento de la solicitud de propuestas de banda ancha vecinal de la ciudad de Chicago, que conectará más hogares a un servicio de Internet doméstico confiable y, al mismo tiempo, aprovechará las asociaciones con organizaciones comunitarias experimentadas para brindar capacitación en habilidades digitales fundamentales para los

residentes más afectados por la brecha digital.

- La dotación de personal para la Coalición de Equidad Digital de Chicago, que ofrece un compromiso significativo, consistente y sólido con expertos y comunidades afectadas por la brecha digital.

- La colaboración con organizaciones locales no lucrativas para coleccionar, limpiar, restaurar y distribuir 2,000 laptops, desktops y tabletas para los residentes de Chicago



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'Lista Para la Segunda Ronda': La Congresista Ramírez Servirá Como Miembro de Rango en el Subcomité de VA

La Congresista Delia C. Ramírez (IL-03) anunció que servirá como Miembro de Ranking para el Subcomité de Supervisión e Investigaciones del Comité de Asuntos de Veteranos de la Cámara de Representantes durante el Congreso 119. La Congresista Ramírez regresa al comité después de introducir y pasar exitosamente una legislación para restaurar los beneficios de educación para los veteranos defraudados durante el último Congreso. "La misión de la Administración Trump y DOGE de presentar los servicios vitales del VA como una fuga de dinero no es una coincidencia. El suyo es un esfuerzo muy concentrado en privatizar y dismantlar el mejor plan que tenemos para implementar políticas centradas en las personas que son populares entre los traba-



jadores estadounidenses – desde cuidado de salud a vivienda y educación. Como miembro de Ranking del Subcomité de Vigilancia e Investigaciones, estoy lista para luchar contra sus esfuerzos por desmantelar la fuerza de trabajo organizada, desviar dinero a los bolsillos de los amigos multimillonarios de Trump y convencernos de que la atención médica y la vivienda para todos es imposible, dijo la Congresista Ramírez. El Subcomité de Supervisión e Investiga-

ciones tiene jurisdicción de supervisión e investigación sobre asuntos de veteranos en general, tecnología de la información y adquisiciones en general, y sobre otros asuntos que el Presidente del Comité en pleno pueda remitir al Subcomité para su supervisión o investigación y para sus recomendaciones apropiadas. El Subcomité tiene jurisdicción legislativa sobre tales proyectos o resoluciones que le remite el Presidente del Comité en pleno.

State of Illinois Announces \$14.7M in USDA Grants to Continue to Provide Local Food to Communities

State of Illinois announced \$14.7 million in federal grant funding will be used to extend the state's Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) beyond June 30, 2025. The funding will be awarded to the existing 15 providers announced in 2024. LFPA was launched as the Illinois – Equitable Access Towards Sustainable Systems (IL-EATS) program in 2022 by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) in a joint effort to transform the food system. Under the program, lead agencies such as food banks and non-profit organizations



receive grant funds to purchase food from underserved farmers at a fair market value which is then provided at no cost to food-insecure communities. The program prioritizes ensuring culturally responsive fresh foods are available to Illinois'

most vulnerable families. Since the initial rollout of the federally funded program, Illinois has been committed to sourcing 100 percent of LFPA products from socially disadvantaged farmers, growers and producers.

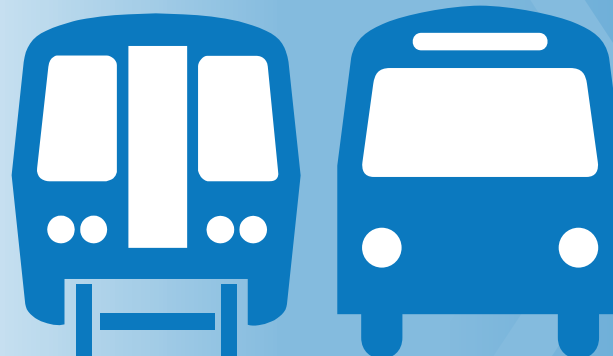
¡Ayude a impulsar “El futuro de nuestro transporte”!

Por primera vez, la CTA pone en marcha una planificación estratégica global a largo plazo. Es importante que este proceso sea impulsado por **ustedes**: los pasajeros y las comunidades a las que servimos. Responda a una breve encuesta sobre su experiencia con la CTA y qué tipos de servicios de tránsito le gustaría ver en el futuro.

Obtenga más información en transitchicago.com/strategicplan y escanee el código para participar en nuestra encuesta.

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MWRD, Forest Preserves of Cook County to Study Major Project that Would Connect South Suburbs with Nature and Alleviate Flooding

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and the Forest Preserves of Cook County are partnering on a feasibility study in southeast Cook County for a collaborative project to provide flood relief, restore the local ecology and create new outdoor recreational opportunities for neighboring communities. This 20-month study will assess the potential for the MWRD and the Forest Preserves to coordinate and share costs for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of a Deer Creek-Third Creek Reservoir. If feasible, the system would provide naturalized stormwater storage for flood-prone communities in nearby Glenwood, Ford Heights, Lansing, Thornton, South Holland, Calumet City, Dolton and unincorporated areas. The proposed

project could cover nearly one-square-mile area along Deer Creek and Third Creek within the Little Calumet River Watershed near Glenwood and Ford Heights, where stormwater storage can help mitigate increasing flooding concerns. The MWRD and the Forest Preserves introduced plans for the multi-benefit flood

control project on Jan. 16, at the Little Calumet River Watershed Planning Council Meeting. Project partners plan to begin outreach to municipal leaders in the fall of 2025, and once the feasibility study concludes in the fall of 2026, community meetings will be held to gather public input on the project.

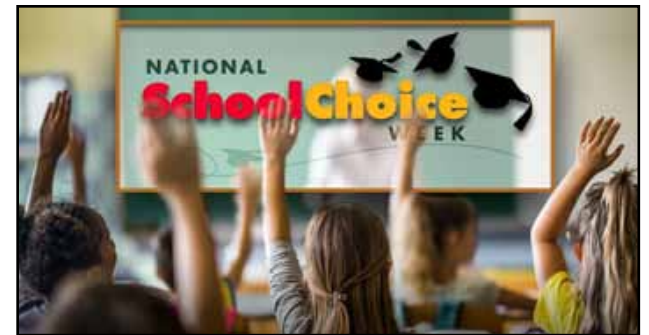


Illinois Families, Schools Unite to Celebrate School Choice Week

Families looking for a new K-12 education option this fall can find out about their choices and start the process of choosing through fun and family-friendly events taking place all across the state this January. Illinois schools and organizations are planning 1,049 celebrations out of the more than 27,000 events taking place nationwide to celebrate National School Choice Week's 15th anniversary. School choice allows families to select the learning environment that works best for their children, whether it is traditional public school, public charter school, public magnet school, online learning, homeschooling, or microschooling. With

options expanding in many places, parents are better positioned than ever to find the place where their children will learn, thrive, and succeed. A January 2025 survey conducted by the National School Choice Awareness Foundation revealed that more than 60 percent of parents explored new schools for their children in the last 12 months, highlighting the high demand for

K-12 education options in 2024. National School Choice Week takes place in January each year to encourage families to start their school searches early; the Week raises awareness and shares practical information for parents as they explore their local K-12 options. To download a guide or find a celebration close to you for coverage or photos, visit schoolchoiceweek.com/illinois.



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City of Chicago Receives Recognition as One of Nation's Digital Inclusion Trailblazers for Third Year



The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) named the City of Chicago as a 2024 Digital Inclusion Visionary Trailblazer. This national program recognizes the city's efforts to close the digital divide. Recognizing the array of interests and unique barriers of its community members, Chicago joins a record number of Digital Inclusion Trailblazers this year. NDIA awarded a total of 60 awardees representing municipal,

county, and regional governments, paving the way for digitally inclusive communities across the US. Chicago was named a Visionary Trailblazer for deeply integrating digital inclusion across city governance and leading the way in digital inclusion innovation. Chicago is one of 34 communities across the US to be given this prestigious designation. The City of Chicago achieved Visionary Trailblazer status

by prioritizing digital inclusion for residents of their communities through:

- Extending the Chicago Connected program for pre-K through 12 Chicago Public Schools students, providing no-cost broadband access to over 40,000 students this academic year.
- Releasing the City of Chicago Neighborhood Broadband Request for Proposal, which will connect more households to reliable home internet

while leveraging partnerships with experienced community-based organizations to deliver critical digital skills training for residents most impacted by the digital divide.

•Staffing the Chicago Digital Equity Coalition, which provides meaningful, consistent, and robust engagement with lived experts and communities impacted by the digital divide.

•Collaboration with local non-profit organizations to collect, wipe, refurbish, and distribute 2,000 laptops, desktops, and tablets to Chicagoans.



NHS Cierra Temporalmente la Sede del West Side Para Interesante Proyecto de Remodelación



Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS) anuncia el cierre temporal de nuestra oficina del West Side en 3601 W. Chicago Ave., para dar camino a un innovador proyecto de remodelación. Esta transformación es parte de la iniciativa INVEST South/West de la Ciudad de Chicago y traerá nuevas oportunidades al área, ampliando nuestra habilidad para servir a la comunidad. La oficina NHS West Side cubre vecindarios como Humboldt Park, East Gar-

field Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, South Lawndale, y Austin. Los servicios están disponibles en línea y en nuestros otros locales:

- Oficina Central: 850 W. Jackson Boulevard, Piso 5° (West Loop)
- South Side Hub: 639 E. 87th St. (Chatham)

El proyecto de remodelación, conocido como "The AVE," incluirá 52 unidades de vivienda asequible, espacio comercial, amenidades comunitarias y una moderna oficina

de NHS. Encabezado por KMW Communities y Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH), este esfuerzo representa una inversión significativa en la vitalidad del corredor de Chicago Avenue y las cuerdas circundantes, con \$250 millones de fondos a través del Departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo. Para asistencia, comuníquese al 773-329-4111 o por correo electrónico a homeownership@nhschicago.org.

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**NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO**

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly as described in the Invitation to Bid by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on the stated bid opening date below for:

**CONTRACT 22-878-1S
CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL SEWERS**

Estimated Cost: \$1,645,900.00

Bid Deposit: \$82,295.00

Optional Technical Pre Bid Conference: Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:00 am Chicago Time via ZOOM Link

Compliance with the District's Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D and the Multi Project Labor Agreement are required on this Contract.

Any contract or contracts awarded under this invitation for bids are expected to be funded in part by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Neither the United States Federal Government, the State of Illinois, nor any of their departments, agencies, or employees, are or will be a party to this invitation for bids or any resulting contract. The procurement will be subject to regulations contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327, the Davis-Bacon Act (40 USC 276a through 276a-5) as defined by the United States Department of Labor, and the federal "Build America, Buy America Act" requirements, inclusive of the American Iron and Steel Act, contained in the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58.

This procurement is also subject to the grant recipient's policy regarding the increased use of disadvantaged business enterprises, including requirements in 40 CFR Part 33. The grant recipient's policy requires all bidders to undertake specified affirmative efforts at least sixteen (16) days prior to bid opening. The policy is contained in the specifications. Bidders are also required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in 41 CFR 60-4.

Bid Opening: March 4, 2025

The above is an abbreviated version of the Notice Invitation to Bid. A full version which includes a brief description of the project and/or service can be found on the District's website, www.mwrdd.org; the path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrdd.org (Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrdd.org or call 312-751-6643.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et.seq.), where it is stated in the Invitation to Bid Page.

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals if deemed in the public's best interest.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
January 22, 2025

Immigrants Under Trump

By: Ashmar Mandou

With less than two months away from inauguration, President-elect Donald Trump has promised voters mass deportations, leaving the vulnerable immigrant communities with a range of questions, such as detainment and questions surrounding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Recently, the appointment of “Border Czar” Tom Homan elevated fears of deportation leaving many elected officials, including Congresswoman Delia C. Ramirez voicing concern. “Today’s announcement that former acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Thomas Homan will serve as “Border Czar” should make it clear to everyone that the Trump Administration will make good on their promises of mass deportation. We know *exactly* who Tom Homan is. He is the architect of the “zero tolerance” policy that separated thousands of migrant children from their parents with no plan for reunification. He demonstrates cold disregard for the U.S. citizenship of the at least 4 million children with an undocumented parent, suggesting to keep families together, they should be deported together.”

Congressman Ramirez continues, The Trump Administration’s goal is to inflict maximum damage on diverse American families, our children, and our communities. To that end, it is no surprise Trump wants Tom Homan at the helm. But let it be known, I will fight like hell to keep our families together, and our communities are ready to be an obstacle at every turn as he tries to implement his cruel, vile, gruesome plan.” According to a new report by Upwardly Global, immigrants are playing a vital role in Illinois by revitalizing communities across Chicago and rural areas alike. According to the report, immigrant entrepreneurs are helping drive prosperity in the state. Illinois is home to 19 Fortune 500 companies that were started by immigrants or children of immigrants. In total, 25.5 percent of all entrepreneurs in the state are immigrants; generating a total business income of \$3.2 billion. While there are a plethora of questions surrounding the issue of deportations, below seem to be the most pressing concerns.

What role do states play in any Trump order to deport immigrants?

There are 11 million people living without legal authorization in the U.S., and Trump would have the authority, as president, to deport those people. But it would be very expensive to pay for the immigration officers, immigration judges, detention facilities, the plane flights and more that would be required to do so. Estimates on the cost of mass deportation range from US\$88 billion a year to more than \$300 billion. The administration is probably going to have to rely on state and local governments to help carry out these deportations. The president cannot legally force state and local governments to cooperate with immigration enforcement.

Could Trump still send federal immigration officers to a state that does not cooperate, in order to identify and detain immigrants?

States could not prevent the federal government from coming in to arrest and deport people – but they don’t have to help them, and could set up some obstacles. The federal government would have to provide all of its own personnel. ICE could rely on local sheriffs or police in some states, like Texas, to identify and arrest immigrants and turn them over to ICE to deport. In other states, like Illinois, that want to protect immigrants from deportation, they can refuse to cooperate with federal authorities by not providing certain personal information on immigrants.

What are the other risks immigrants might be concerned about?

There are about 580,000 people who are living in the U.S. and are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. DACA gives some people who came to the U.S. illegally as children the right to legally work, go to school and live in the country. The courts have already litigated that a president can lawfully terminate DACA through a certain process. People who apply for DACA have to state in their application that they are in the country unlawfully. So the government could prove that DACA recipients can legally be deported, and will have information on where they live.

If you are in need of help or have unanswered questions, organizations, such as Centro Romero, Howard Area CC, Instituto Del Progreso Latino, St. Augustine College, PODER, and Universidad Popular are better suited to help guide you.

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