

UCCI



# Legislative NEWS

 A PUBLICATION OF THE  
 UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

## GOV. PRITZKER ANNOUNCES THREE APPOINTMENTS TO UPPER ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Photo: kazuend | Unsplash

**B**uilding on a strong team of diverse experts in their fields, Governor JB Pritzker announced the following appointments in his administration:

### UPPER ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

#### **Pete Olson will serve on the Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority.\***

Olson currently serves as the Business Representative for Plumbers Local 130 and is the former Business Representative for Plumbers Local 93. Previously, he worked as a plumber for Advance Mechanical Systems and A.R. Hertel Plumbing and Heating. In addition, Olson worked as a carpenter and roofer for Onan Roofing. Throughout his tenure, he has served as a trustee on the Pension Board for Local 93 and continues to serve as the President of Lake County

Building Trades and on the boards of the Lake County Transportation Alliance Board and the Lake County Workforce Development Board.

#### **John Spiros will serve on the Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority.\***

Spiros is the current Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Painters District Council 14. In addition, he currently sits as an executive board member of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Chicago Painters Pension and Health and Welfare Fund as well as the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council. Previously, Spiros was a trustee on the Chicago Area Painters and Drywall Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee in addition to working as a painting teacher and instructor at Washburne Trade School. He began his career as a maintenance journeyman painter at LaSalle Bank and

an apprentice painter at Cazel and Elliot Inc. Spiros earned his Bachelor of Arts and Teacher Certification from Chicago State University.

#### **Estelle Walgreen will serve on the Upper Illinois River Valley Development Authority.\***

Walgreen currently leads EGW Strategy Partners, having co-founded the digital advisory firm in 2009. The advisory group assists Fortune 500, Fortune 100 and privately held e-commerce enterprises, creating viable digital strategies and following through on their implementation. She previously worked as Director of Content and Digital Strategy at IntraLink Global and as President/CEO of Converse Industries, a national nanotechnology enterprise. In addition, Walgreen is a former board member of the Museum of Science and Industry, the Nature Conservancy of Illinois, Kohl's Children's Museum and Nuestro Futuro, now known as the Chicago Community Trust. She has been recognized as a Women of Achievement by the State of Wisconsin, the Anti-Defamation League, the Chicago Catholic Archdiocese and the Mexican Civic Society. Walgreen earned her undergraduate degree from Lake Forest College and a graduate degree from Northwestern University.

\* Appointments pending confirmation by the Illinois Senate.

# PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES STREET INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANT OPPORTUNITY



Photo: Sawyer Bengtson | Unsplash

**CHICAGO, IL** - ICJIA Acting Executive Director Jason Stamps today announced a funding opportunity to expand and enhance street intervention programs that interrupt and prevent cycles of violence that harm Illinois families and communities.

About \$1.9 million in state funding is available to nonprofit organizations and government entities that operate a street intervention program outside Chicago. Funds may be used to enhance an existing street intervention program (provide additional services) or to expand an existing street intervention program (serve more high-risk community members). Grants were awarded earlier this year to programs offering Chicago-based street intervention services.

Street-level violent crime has widespread community impact that spans beyond its direct victims. Addressing street-level violence is important as experiencing or witnessing this type of violence can increase

fear and distrust among community members and reduce their feelings of safety. Exposure to violence also may result in post-traumatic stress disorder and other negative short- and long-term outcomes for individuals and communities.

"Street intervention is critical to making communities safer," said Acting Executive Director Jason Stamps. "We urge community-based organizations and others that provide these critical street intervention programs to take advantage of available funding to expand or enhance their current street intervention services."

Street intervention programs reduce street-level violence by using outreach workers to engage community members who are at an immediate risk of either being victimized or perpetrating violence. Outreach staff are credible messengers who engage with these individuals in a variety of settings, focus on building trusting relationships, and mediate

existing and potential conflicts to prevent violent incidents. Outreach and support staff also serve as service connectors and provide continued support to high-risk individuals and their families.

View the "Expanding or Enhancing Existing Street Intervention Programming" Notice of Funding Opportunity application materials, eligibility requirements, and other information.

All grant opportunities are announced via ICJIA's CJ Dispatch. Subscribe [here](#). For information on pre-qualifications for all ICJIA grants, go to <https://grants.icjia.cloud/>.

ICJIA is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice through work in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Visit [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).



# WORKSHOPS JUST ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2020 NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

FEB. 29 – MAR. 4, 2020 | WASHINGTON HILTON | WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO) 2020 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE MORE THAN TWO DOZEN WORKSHOPS ON POLICY AREAS CRITICAL TO COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

**DEADLINE APPROACHING:** REGISTER BY THIS FRIDAY (DEC. 13) FOR THE BEST CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RATES AND MAXIMUM HOTEL AVAILABILITY.

## WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

### FEDERALISM & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Joint NACo-U.S. Department of Defense Summit for Counties Near Defense Installations

Coming to a Legislature Near You: State Policy Trends

Protecting the Vote: How to Secure Your County's Election System

Supreme Court Cases Hold Consequences for Counties

Counties and the Census: Local Leadership in Reaching Historically Undercounted Populations

### COUNTY COMMUNITY & PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Rural Grants 101: How County Officials Can Tap Into USDA Programs

Painful Permitting: How Counties Can Successfully Navigate the Federal Permitting Process

EPA Regulations to Watch

An Insider's Look at FEMA: What to Do When a Disaster Strikes

### COUNTY ECONOMIES, COMPETITIVENESS, EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY

International Trade and Local Economies: How Counties Can Compete in the Global Market

Positioning Your County for the Future of Work

Rethinking Recycling: County Response to China's Ban on Recycling Imports

### COUNTY RESIDENT CARE & SERVICES

Counties Leading Change for Young Children

Creating a County Network of Support for Aging Americans

Breaking Down the Complexity: Federal-State-Local Strategies to Tackle Homelessness

Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Justice Reform

---

## WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

### COUNTY FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION

SEC and GASB 101: The Latest on Federal Financing and Regulations

County Innovation for Value-Added Solutions and Revenue Generation

An Elected Official's Financial Guide: Essential Tools for Managing Your County

Money Matters: Generational Approaches to Retirement and Financial Literacy

### TECHNOLOGY

CIO Forum

Technology Innovation: Getting Your Data in Order

Cyber Disaster Recovery: What's the Hype All About

The White House's National Cybersecurity Moonshot: Impacts and Opportunities for Counties

### LEADERSHIP

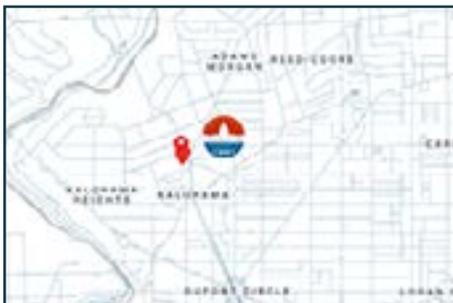
Speaking Different Languages: Bridging the Generation Communication Gap

Best Practices for County Leadership Readiness and Talent Development

Ethics in Public Service and Political Campaigns

### ... AND MUCH MORE!

[Click here to view the current schedule and stay tuned for more updates.](#)



### HOUSING

Nestled between the Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle neighborhoods, conference headquarters will be located at the Washington Hilton. Special rates have been secured, **but you must register for the conference before booking your room.**

[Click here for more details on housing.](#)

---

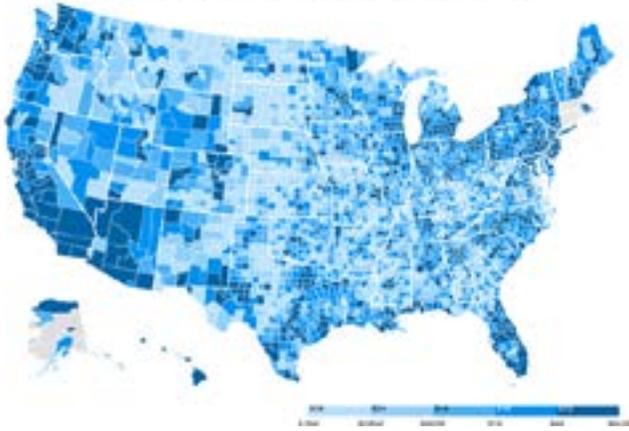
### QUESTIONS?

We're happy to help. Contact [nacomeetings@naco.org](mailto:nacomeetings@naco.org) or call 202.942.4292.

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**\$17,751,688,735,000**  
2018 REAL GDP FOR ALL COUNTIES



For the first time, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released county-level Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates from 2001 to 2018. GDP is the **value of final goods and services** produced by the county's economy within a given year—and provides **insight into the vibrance of each county economy**.

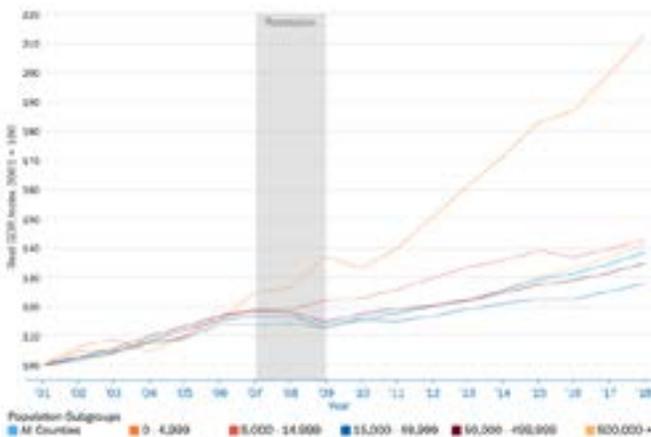
**THE MEDIAN GDP OF ALL COUNTIES WAS JUST SHORT OF \$1 BILLION IN 2018**

Median real GDP broken down by county population range

County Population	Median Real GDP
0-4,999	\$142,153,500
5,000-14,999	\$320,439,000
15,000-49,999	\$923,599,000
50,000-499,999	\$4,423,646,500

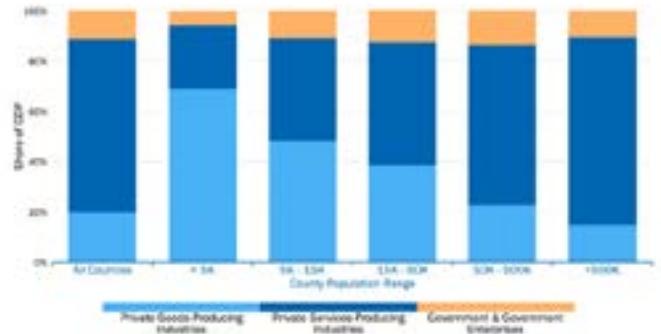
**COUNTY ECONOMIES GREW BY 39 PERCENT BETWEEN 2001 AND 2018 AND BY 22 PERCENT POST-RECESSION\***

Growth in real county GDP between 2001 and 2018, by county population range. Growth has been calculated based on 2001 values, where each year's GDP is compared to 2001 GDP.



**SERVICES-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES ACCOUNTED FOR 69 PERCENT OF COUNTY GDP\***

Breakdown of GDP by industry and population, 2018 values



**Data Source and Notes**

Sources: Department of Commerce / Bureau of Economic Analysis / Regional Economic Accounts

**Notes:**

\*Business cycles are determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). According to NBER, the United States entered a recession in December 2007, which lasted until June 2009.

\*Counties with suppressions used to avoid disclosure of confidential information have been excluded from calculations.

Real GDP is in thousands of chained 2012 dollars. Industry detail is based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Private goods-producing industries: The private goods-producing industries consist of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction; construction; and manufacturing.

Private services-providing industries: The private services-producing industries consist of utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing, excluding Postal Service; information; finance and insurance; real estate, rental and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; management of companies; administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services (except government and government enterprises).

Government and government enterprises: a sub-group of "government and government enterprises." Congressional staff and the U.S. Postal Service are included in this category.

## UCCI Calendar of Events 2020

January 27, 2019	Membership Meeting   9:30 a.m.
February 25-26, 2019	<b>Legislative Reception/Education Seminar</b> <i>SANGAMO CLUB – 227 East Adams, Springfield, IL</i>
Tuesday	Membership Meeting   1:00 p.m. Legislative Reception   5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Education Seminar   8:00 a.m.
March 23, 2019	Membership Meeting   9:30 a.m.
April 27, 2019	No Membership Meeting
May 18, 2019	Membership Meeting   9:30 a.m.
June 22, 2019	No Membership Meeting
July 26-28, 2019	<b>Annual Conference</b> <i>Eagle Ridge Resort, Galena, IL</i>
Sunday	Meet/Greet Reception   5:00 p.m.
Monday	Membership Meeting   10:00 a.m. Golf Outing   12:00 p.m. Shotgun Not-Golfing Luncheon Event   12:30 p.m. Dinner/Reception   6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Education Seminar   8:30 a.m.
August 24, 2019	No Membership meeting
September 28, 2019	Membership Meeting   9:30 a.m.
October 23-24, 2019	<b>Fall Conference</b> <i>Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Springfield, IL</i>
Friday	Leadership Academy Recognition/Dinner 6:30 P.M. ( <i>Museum</i> )
Saturday	Membership Meeting   8:30 a.m. ( <i>Library</i> ) Education Seminar   9:00 a.m. ( <i>Library</i> )
November 16, 2019	9:30 a.m. - Membership Meeting
December 2019	No Membership meeting

## Executive Committee and Officers

**Executive Director:** W. Michael McCreery

### Officers/Executive Committee Members

David Meyer, President (Washington County)  
David Zimmerman, Vice President (Tazewell County)  
Joseph Payette, Secretary (Carroll County)  
P.E. Cross, Treasurer (Hamilton County)  
Matthew Prochaska (Kendall County)  
Mark Kern (St. Clair County)  
Samuel L. Newton (Stephenson County)

## 2020 UCCI • University of Illinois Extension Leadership Academy

### Reserve the dates!

May 8-9, 2020 (in Champaign)  
June 13, 2020 (in Champaign)  
July 18, 2020 (in Champaign)  
August 8, 2020 (in Champaign)  
September 25-26, 2020 (in Champaign)  
October 23, 2020 (in Springfield)  
Graduation Ceremony and Dinner,  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

### Topics:

Leadership Fundamentals  
Improving Your Management Skills  
Change Management  
Fiscal Management  
Managing Economic Development  
Data-Driven Decision Making  
Parliamentary Procedure  
Ethical Considerations  
Crisis Communications

### For more information, contact:

Anne H. Silvis, University of Illinois Extension  
555 Bevier Hall; 905 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-5126 [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu)



The Leadership Academy was developed by University of Illinois Extension in partnership with United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) to provide leadership training on issues important to elected and appointed county officials. For anyone seeking to manage and lead more effectively, the Academy offers a learning network and cutting edge information. The curriculum is designed for county officials who want to explore new ideas and learn practical responses to current issues, challenges and opportunities. The five instructional sessions allow participants to learn, share, and apply on a variety of practical and pertinent topics. The final event is the graduation ceremony and dinner held October 23 in Springfield.

**Requirements:** Participation in no fewer than four of the five instructional sessions is required, and participants must complete an evaluation. Graduates will receive a certificate from the University of Illinois, and will be recognized at a ceremony and dinner hosted by UCCI at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. Participation: There are no fees for meals, materials, or lodging, but you must apply to participate. Participation is limited to 30 individuals.

**For full consideration, apply by April 1, 2020.**

Apply online, by mail, or email ([asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu)) to Anne H. Silvis. Visit the UCCI website (<https://www.unitedcounties.com/>) to register online. If you don't receive an acknowledgment within a week, please call Anne at (217) 333-5126.

Save the Date! Black Men in White Coats 2020 Summit



Dr. Dale Okorodudu  
Founder, Black Men  
in White Coats  
Keynote Address

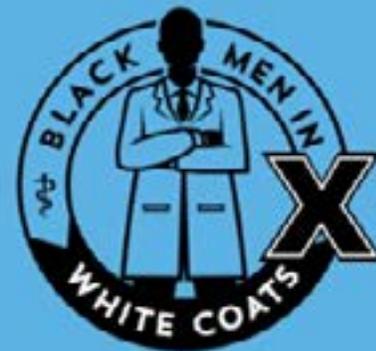
Dr. Pierre Johnson  
Founder, Pulse of  
Perseverance  
Panelist

Dr. Brian H. Williams  
Trauma Surgeon,  
University of Chicago  
Panelist

# Black Men in White Coats Summit

Join us for an exciting day of mentorship, medical exposure, and networking as we strengthen the future of healthcare. Students 3rd grade and up, parents, educators, healthcare professionals, and community leaders are all welcome!

**MARCH 7, 2020 • 9 AM - 2 PM**  
**MALCOLM X COLLEGE**



---

# PRITZKER TAPS MANAR TO CO-CHAIR EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING COMMISSION



**CHICAGO, IL** - State Senator Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill) was today named co-chair of the Governor's Commission for Equitable Funding for Early Childhood Education and Care by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker. The commission will make recommendations on how to fund equitable access to high-quality early childhood education and care services for all children birth to age 5.

"Governor Pritzker has demonstrated real commitment to early education, and I'm confident that the commission can find a data-driven early childhood education financing plan that meets that needs of families in every region of the state and enables every child to benefit from a high-quality preschool experience," Manar said.

Manar, who engineered the state's historic Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) reform for K-12 schools in 2017, has long advocated equitable funding for early childhood education programs.

The commission will build on the state's record investment of \$100 million in early childhood education in the fiscal year 2020 budget, which will provide pre-K to 14,000 children across Illinois.

Manar was a vocal critic of the Rauner administration's decision last year to cut all pre-K funding for dozens of schools across Central and Southern Illinois with no warning and little explanation. The move, which forced some schools to suspend their pre-K programs indefinitely, is something Manar says should never happen again.

"Changes made by the previous administration left entire counties in downstate Illinois without a single state-funded pre-K program. We've done a good job reversing some of those harmful changes, but we still have work to do," Manar said. "A primary goal of this commission is to correct a broken system and propose a new, fair funding formula just like we did for K-12."

The 29-member commission – consisting of child care providers, advocates, educators and legislators – will be led by co-chairs State Senator Andy Manar, former State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Deputy Illinois Governor Jesse Ruiz, and former Illinois Early Learning Council member George Davis. Governor Jason Stamps today announced a funding opportunity to expand and enhance street intervention programs that interrupt and prevent cycles of violence that harm Illinois families and communities.

About \$1.9 million in state funding is available to nonprofit organizations and government entities that operate a street intervention program outside Chicago. Funds may be used to enhance an existing street intervention program (provide additional services) or to expand an existing street intervention program (serve more high-risk community members). Grants were awarded earlier this year to programs offering Chicago-based street intervention services.

Street-level violent crime has widespread community impact that spans beyond its direct victims. Addressing street-level violence is important as experiencing or witnessing this type of violence can increase fear and distrust among community members and reduce their feelings of safety. Exposure to violence also may result in post-traumatic stress disorder and other negative short- and long-term outcomes for individuals and communities.

"Street intervention is critical to making communities safer," said Acting Executive Director Jason Stamps. "We urge community-based organizations and others that provide these critical street intervention programs to take advantage of available funding to expand or enhance their current street intervention services."

Street intervention programs reduce street-level violence by using outreach workers to engage community members who are at an immediate risk of either being victimized or perpetrating violence. Outreach staff are credible messengers who engage with these individuals in a variety of settings, focus on building trusting relationships, and mediate existing and potential conflicts to prevent violent incidents. Outreach and support staff also serve as service connectors and provide continued support to high-risk individuals and their families.

View the "Expanding or Enhancing Existing Street Intervention Programming" Notice of Funding Opportunity application materials, eligibility requirements, and other information.

All grant opportunities are announced via ICJIA's CJ Dispatch. [Subscribe here.](#)

For information on pre-qualifications for all ICJIA grants, go to <https://grants.icjia.cloud/>. ICJIA is dedicated to improving the administration of criminal justice through work in the areas of grants administration, research and analysis, policy and planning, and information systems and technology. Visit [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us).

# 20 NEW ILLINOIS LAWS TO KNOW IN 2020

Kristen Thometz | December 17, 2019 3:49 pm WTTW



Photo: Josh Catalano | CC

**O**n Jan. 1, 2020, more than 250 new laws take effect in Illinois, ranging from legalized recreational marijuana to a ban on animal-tested cosmetics to educating students about consent and safeguarding genetic information.

Last week, state Senate Democrats and Republicans released their top new laws for 2020. (See Democrats' picks [here](#); Illinois GOP members' picks can be found [here](#).)

Below, a selection of 20 new laws that take effect on New Year's Day.

## Recreational Marijuana

When you ring in the new year, it'll be legal to buy and smoke marijuana in Illinois. With

the passage of HB 1438, Illinois became the 11th state to legalize recreational use. You won't be able to grow your own unless you're a registered medical marijuana patient, but adults 21 and up will have legal access to marijuana sold in dispensaries across the state.

Keep in mind that public use of pot products will be prohibited – that includes in bars and restaurants. Read more about the new law and find dispensaries in our [guide to marijuana in Illinois](#).

To read the rest of the article please visit <https://news.wttw.com/2019/12/17/20-new-illinois-laws-know-2020>

---

# AFTER 70 YEARS OF FAILED ATTEMPTS, GOV. PRITZKER ENACTS PENSION CONSOLIDATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

## New Law Consolidates 649 Downstate and Suburban Police and Fire Pension Plans into Two Statewide Funds

**Chicago, IL** — After more than 70 years of failed attempts to remedy the patchwork of first responder pension plans across the state, Governor JB Pritzker signed a new law today to consolidate the 649 downstate and suburban plans into two statewide funds.

"Bipartisanship in this General Assembly has achieved what none of their predecessors have been able to do: consolidate the 650 downstate and suburban pension funds to just two, amplifying their investment power and reducing the burden on property taxpayers," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Working together, we are helping hundreds of cities in Illinois alleviate their spiraling property tax burdens, and just as importantly, we're showing that Illinois can tackle its most intractable problems."

The new funds will leverage their collective buying power of \$15 billion in assets – \$8.7 billion in the police fund and \$6.3 in the fire fund – to increase investment returns and lower management costs. Helping lower the pressure on local property taxes, the consolidation is estimated to produce greater returns of \$820 million to \$2.5 billion over the next five years alone and billions more over the next 20 years.

Created by Gov. Pritzker less than a month into office, the Illinois Pension Consolidation Feasibility Task Force – led by co-chairs former CBOE Chairman and CEO Bill Brodsky, AFFI President Pat Devaney and former Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno – recommended the legislation after months of deliberation.

Senate Bill 1300 passed in the fall veto session with strong bipartisan majorities and the support of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois, the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police, the Illinois Municipal League and the countless cities, towns and villages across the state they represent.

"The number one budget issue legislators have been dealing with for decades is the pension crisis," said Sen. Cristina Castro (D-Elgin), the Senate sponsor of the measure. "We got a victory today with this consolidation plan, but there's still a lot of work to be done."

"This is a commonsense proposal that will solidify police and fire pensions throughout the state," said House Assistant Majority Leader Jay Hoffman (D-Swansea), the House sponsor of the measure. "By combining the investment power of the funds, they will receive an increase in investment income and will relieve the pressure on local property taxes. The Governor should be commended for his leadership in this important issue."

"Consolidating these 649 local plans into two statewide funds for investment purposes will reduce expenses and maximize performance – and most importantly, secure our first responders' futures," said Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois President Pat Devaney. "Firefighters deserve to know their retirement will be there and taxpayers should finally be confident it's being funded in the most efficient manner, and this new law signed by Gov. Pritzker moves us toward a financially stable future for every Illinoisan."

"Lawmakers from both parties and Governor Pritzker's office truly listened to police officers' concerns and put in a lot of hard work to get this final bill right," said Illinois Fraternal of Police Board Chairman Tim Kobler. "The law will let police officers control the retirement funds for their fellow officers, and it addresses the root causes of the pension dilemma rather than resorting to the same old game of just cutting benefits. The end result will benefit taxpayers and officers alike."

"Consolidating the assets of the more than 650 downstate public safety pension funds throughout Illinois will help provide stronger

investment returns for active and retired public safety employees and reduce redundant administrative costs on Illinois' taxpayers," said Illinois Municipal League Executive Director Brad Cole. "This is a good first step forward on the complicated and comprehensive issue of pension reform."

"This legislation represents a balanced approach based on thoughtful discussion and compromise among the interested parties after decades of underperformance of these many funds," said William J. Brodsky, former Chairman and CEO of the Chicago Board Options Exchange and now Chairman of Cedar Street Asset Management, LLC. "The goal was to maximize the returns for the benefit of the first responders and their families and to minimize the costs to those who fund the pension plans: the taxpayers of Illinois. The leadership of Governor Pritzker was the catalyst that allowed this to happen."

There is universal agreement that larger pooled investments enjoy lower fees and have more opportunity to invest in higher earning investments," said former Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno. "Consolidation of Illinois' 650 funds into two funds will allow the administrative and fee savings and better returns to be plowed back into the funds for the benefit of retirees and taxpayers."

Local pension boards will continue to administer pension benefits, and no assets or liabilities will be shifted from one local pension plan to another. The new law also brings Tier 2 pensions into compliance to avoid future additional liabilities, which is estimated to cost \$70 to \$95 million while projected investment gains can generate an additional \$820 million to \$2.5 billion.

# PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES NEW TRAINING PROGRAM TO INCREASE MINORITY PRESENCE IN FILM INDUSTRY

## NOFO Applications Now Available

**CHICAGO, IL** - The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) plans to invest \$500,000 through the Illinois Film Office Workforce Training Program to enable more women and minorities to access job opportunities within the film industry. As the industry grows, more minority groups are moving toward film production as a career, making up 49% of the accredited productions in the state. To keep this momentum going, DCEO's new job training program will train and graduate regular cohorts of new film and TV production workers annually through program to be adopted by qualified institutions, colleges, and universities through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The state-wide training program will position qualified and trained minorities to land entry-level positions on productions across the state and would add 2,500 new minority crew positions over a 10-year period.

Peter Hawley, director of the Illinois Office of Film at DCEO, said: "Although 2019 is a record-breaking year for film production in the state, with fan favorite TV shows such as Chicago Fire, Chicago Med, Chicago PD, Empire, The CHI, and Fargo filming in Illinois, we still need producers and industry representatives from HBO, Disney, Paramount, and Fox to bring more productions to Illinois. Governor Pritzker recently signed legislation that renews the film tax incentive for productions to shoot in Illinois. To prevent staffing shortages in the years ahead, Illinois needs more trained crew members to fully staff those productions. Our goal is to boost our economy and ensure that our workforce more accurately represents Illinois' diversity."



Photo: Jeremy Yap | Unsplash

The specific goals of this program are as follows:

- Increase the number of productions and associated jobs in Illinois
- Change the perception that Illinois is "booked up" with a lack of trained crew members
- Improve communication and coordination between producers and workforce training programs to increase the number of people graduating from those programs
- Work with groups that provide workforce training to match the needs of production
- Help grow and support new training programs all across the state
- Help low-income and minority Illinoisans train as production assistants for career growth opportunities in the film and television industry

The Illinois Film Workforce Training Initiative's mission is to fight poverty and empower low-income and minority Illinois residents by creating living-wage employment opportunities and connecting graduates to careers with long-term potential for growth and educational advancement. A recent study shows that across motion picture video production, distribution, and tele/post-production services in Illinois, the average annual pay was \$73,686 in 2018, which is higher than the average annual pay of \$59,941 across all industries.

**The NOFO for the Workforce Training Program is available here. The application submission deadline is 5:00pm CST on 1/9/2020.**

## UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

217 East Monroe  
Suite #101  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

## GETTING AROUND ILLINOIS PROVIDES LATEST WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS

Guy Tridgell and Maria Castaneda

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** SPRINGFIELD, IL – As the official start of winter approaches, the Illinois Department of Transportation reminds travelers to visit and bookmark [GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com) for continually updated information on road conditions. "GettingAroundIllinois.com site is a great resource for getting you the latest information to keep you and your family safe in your travels," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary OmerOsman. "Atthistimeofyear,theweathercan quickly change with little warning. Conditions at Point A can be much different than your destination at Point B. GettingAroundIllinois.com is an easy way to keep updated on winter road conditions throughout the state."



*Photo: Brian Montano | Unsplash*

Available on your computer and optimized for smartphones, the site includes the ability to identify and zoom in to a location, travel route or destination on a state map. Road conditions are recorded by plow drivers out in the field and relayed to [GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com) through a cloud-based system to provide a general overview on IDOT-maintained highways. The road conditions map averages more than 2 million visitors during snow-and-ice season, featuring a color scheme of pinks and blues

to differentiate from the red, yellow and green of traffic congestion reporting as well as to increase accessibility for those who have difficulty distinguishing colors. "The safest thing is to not be driving during winter weather, but if travel is a must visit [GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com) before you go," Osman said. "Planning ahead and using safe winter driving habits can help you get it together during winter weather."