



# UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

*Volume 2 - Issue 3 - March 2020*

## STATE OF ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE NEW PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE IN ILLINOIS

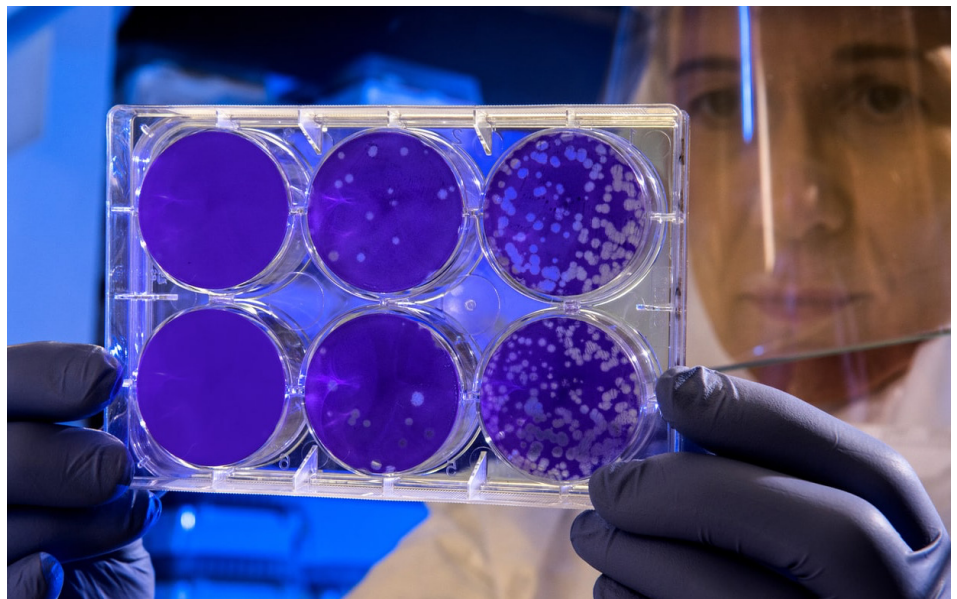
*PATIENT'S PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE TEST WILL BE CONFIRMED BY THE CDC*

**S**PRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Cook County Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced a fifth Illinois resident has tested positive at the IDPH laboratory for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The specimens have been sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for confirmatory testing. The fifth individual is a Cook County resident in his 20s who flew into Chicago O'Hare Airport earlier this month after traveling to Italy. The individual acquired the infection while in Italy and is hospitalized at Rush University Medical Center in isolation. Public health officials are identifying and contacting all close contacts.

"The state of Illinois is working around the clock to contain COVID-19 and educate the public," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Public health officials anticipated there would be additional cases and we will continue to implement robust measures to contain the virus while also preparing for further transmission. The risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Illinois remains low, but we encourage the public to be vigilant and take extra care with the normal precautions you should take during flu season."

The CDC has confirmed one of the recent presumptive positive cases and we are still awaiting results on the other case. Both remain in home isolation and are doing well. At this time, the exposure route for the third and fourth cases is not known. Both individuals recently traveled to another state, but health officials have not been able to link them to a COVID-19 confirmed case in Illinois or the other state. Therefore, because IDPH has been unable to identify a point of exposure for these two cases, IDPH believes it is possible these cases may be due to community transmission in Illinois.

"While we expect to see additional cases, we are not seeing widespread transmission of the virus in Illinois and we believe the risk to the general public remains low," said IDPH Director



Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "We understand people are concerned, but we want to reassure residents that we have been working with local health departments, hospitals, clinicians, the CDC, and other state agencies around the clock and are using every resource at our disposal to prepare."

Illinois' two previously confirmed cases have both recovered. Public health officials continue to monitor individuals throughout Illinois who have a history of travel to an affected area or who have had close contact with a confirmed case.

"We will continue to monitor all three recently identified cases daily for the presence of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing until CDC criteria for release are met," said Cook County Department of Public Health Chief Operating Officer Dr. Terry Mason. "With the ability to test for COVID-19 in the IDPH laboratories, we were able to get results quickly and potentially limit further spread of this virus."

Illinois was the first state to be able to test for COVID-19 and IDPH continues to test for the

virus in all three of its laboratories - Chicago, Springfield, and Carbondale.

The need for testing will be determined by a physician based on the patient's symptoms and epidemiologic factors, which includes health care workers, those who have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, or those who have travelled from affected geographic areas. Currently, IDPH is prioritizing testing for individuals who meet previously defined criteria, as well as hospitals who are voluntarily participating in surveillance. When commercial laboratory testing is available, the capacity for more people to be tested will increase significantly.

For information about how you, your school, your workplace, and your community can prepare, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>. For general questions about COVID-19, call the hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov).

---

# GOV. PRITZKER APPOINTS JERRY COSTELLO II TO LEAD THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**S**pringfield, Ill. — Building on a strong team of experts in their fields, Governor JB Pritzker appointed Jerry Costello II to serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

With farming playing an important role in his family's history and a career of public service, there's no better person to lead the Illinois Department of Agriculture at this time than Jerry Costello, said Gov. JB Pritzker. Our agriculture sector drives our state's economy to the tune of \$19 billion every year, and I'm confident that Jerry's deep experience will bring a steady hand to the department and continue the impressive growth of this vital industry.

I'm honored to continue serving the people of Illinois and excited to take the helm at the department I once oversaw in the state legislature, said Jerry Costello II, Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. As a leading producer of soybeans, corn and swine, Illinois is home to the most dedicated farmers in the world, and I look forward to partnering with them to grow our state's agricultural economy.

## Background

Jerry Costello II will serve as the Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. He joins the Governor's cabinet from his position as the Director of Law Enforcement for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which he had held since May 2019. Costello represented the 116th district in the Illinois House of Representatives from 2011 to 2019, during which he served as chair the Agriculture and Conservation committee. He also served on the Pritzker-Stratton Agriculture Transition Committee. A graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Costello decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Not long after signing up, he and his



*Jerry Costello II, Photo credit to <http://www.ilga.gov>*

unit saw combat during Operation Desert Storm. Following his military service in Iraq, Costello returned to Illinois where he became a police officer and started a family. Initially a patrolman, he would rise through the ranks and become assistant chief of police. Born and raised in Southern Illinois, his family has a small farm in Franklin County, producing crops and raising cattle. Costello lives in Smithton with his wife Lori and their three children.

---

## ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION WARNS OF SCAM CLAIMING INVOLVEMENT FROM BOARD OF DENTISTRY

**C**HICAGO - The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation is warning of a phone scam where the caller claims to be from the Illinois Board of Dentistry. The scammer spoofs the call number to make it appear like it is from a Department number (217-785-0800). At least one call has been reported in Illinois already, and a similar scam has also

been reported by the Iowa Dental Board.

### **Please be advised:**

- The Board of Dentistry will never call someone and demand money or information. If you receive a phone call like this, hang up immediately.
- Never give your credit card number or personal identifying information over the phone if you did not initiate the call.

- Be wary of callers who try to intimidate you into making a quick decision or ask you to "act immediately."

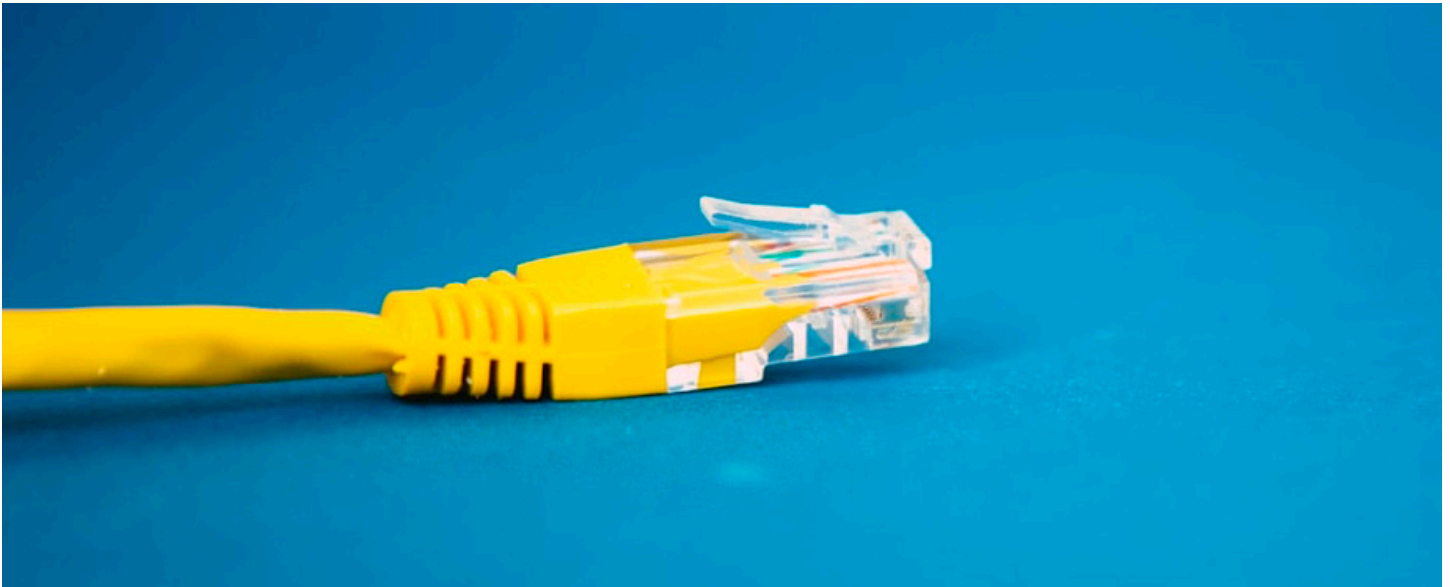
For more information on the different types of phone scams, please go to the Illinois Attorney General's website.

---

---

# GOV. PRITZKER ANNOUNCES \$50 MILLION FIRST ROUND OF MATCHING FUNDS IN STATEWIDE BROADBAND EXPANSION

*GOVERNOR SETS AMBITIOUS GOALS FOR CONNECT ILLINOIS, NATION'S LARGEST MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TO EVERY PART OF ILLINOIS*



**S**pringfield, Ill. — Governor JB Pritzker announced today that the state is releasing \$50 million in funding for the first round of matching grants of Connect Illinois, the state's \$420 million statewide broadband expansion.

"We're beginning to deliver on an ambitious 4- year plan to deliver broadband to homes, businesses and community institutions like hospitals and libraries in every corner of the state," said Governor JB Pritzker. "I want to be clear: This isn't about a person's ability to check Facebook. This is about a small business owner having the tools she needs to reach new customers. This is about an elderly couple's ability to get access to medical experts anywhere in the nation even if they live in a rural community. This is about giving children the ability to research their homework assignments online. In short, this is about the right of all our communities to access health care, education, and economic opportunity."

Applicants are required to provide at least 50% of non-state funding, effectively doubling the size of the nation's largest state competitive grant program to expand high-speed internet.

Applicants are anticipated to include internet service providers, rural cooperatives, nonprofits and local governments. Grant responses for the initial \$50 million round of funding can be submitted through Friday, April 3, 2020. Up to \$5 million per project will be available

during the first round, and subsequent rounds will follow over the course of the next several years. The Notice of Funding Opportunity is available online at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GATA/Pages/2366-1333.aspx>.

Connect Illinois is centered around three main outcomes: education, telehealth and economic development. It aims to provide universal access to basic broadband for homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions by 2024. Read the full Broadband Strategic Plan here: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/Documents/Broadband%20Strategic%20Plan%202.5.20.pdf>

The Rebuild Illinois capital plan dedicated \$420 million toward broadband expansion — \$400 million for the grant program and \$20 million to strengthen the Illinois Century Network. The matching requirements in the grant program will leverage state funds to attract at least an additional \$400 million from internet service providers.

"Fast, reliable internet isn't a luxury anymore, it's a necessity," Sen. Bill Cunningham (D-Chicago). "Broadband access is critical for everyone, from students to small business owners, and it's vital that we continue

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



to invest in its availability in all corners of our state. We've done a lot of great work on this issue so far, and I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Pritzker and my colleagues in the legislature to expand this critical resource."

"I am honored to represent rural and downstate Illinois as a member of the Broadband Advisory Council. Funding for new and improved infrastructure will give more residents access to high-speed Internet, provide better e-learning opportunities for schools, and boost telehealth programs in areas that do not have easy access to specialized medical facilities and doctors," said Sen. Jil Tracy (R-Quincy). "We are providing resources to give our communities, our farmers and our local businesses access to the technology they need to compete in today's economy."

"I am proud to stand today with the Governor and the other members of the Broadband Advisory Council as we move from design to execution in expanding broadband Internet access statewide to reach Illinois communities still left behind by the broadband revolution, bringing additional resources for education, economic growth, healthcare, and other areas benefiting from Internet resources," said Rep. John Connor (D-Romeoville). "Using the Broadband Council's comprehensive plans presented today, Illinois begins to bridge the digital divide that separates city from country to strengthen Illinois through more expansive broadband Internet access statewide."

"Internet access has profound impacts on opportunities in education, jobs, health care and nearly every other aspect of daily life," said Assistant House Minority Leader Keith Wheeler (R-Oswego). "Expanding broadband access to every corner of Illinois, particularly rural communities, is vital to move Illinois' economy forward. I applaud the Governor for making this critical investment that will lift up students, families and job creators. Together we will build broadband infrastructure across Illinois that is second to none."

"Investing in a secure technology infrastructure, such as the Illinois Century Network (ICN), brings the world to the fingertips of teachers and students," said Mary Reynolds, Group CIO for Education at the Department of Innovation & Technology (DoIT). "Illinois students will have equitable



access to digital learning opportunities as a result of broadband expansion through Connect Illinois."

"What makes Connect Illinois sing is its historic investment in infrastructure coupled with meaningful community engagement in broadband planning and capacity building," said Adrienne Benton Furniss, Executive Director, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society. "Community leaders of all stripes should play an important role because they are closest to local needs and have earned peoples' confidence and trust. Their voice in the creation of local broadband access, adoption, digital inclusion, and utilization strategies will help to ensure the success of Governor Pritzker's long-term economic development plans for the state of Illinois."

"Broadband access is a critical component of modern agriculture, but far too many Illinoisans are missing out," said Richard Guebert, Jr., President of the Illinois Farm Bureau. "Not only can broadband access improve the economic well-being of farmers, but it can also help revitalize rural Illinois and boost our economy."

"The Partnership for a Connected Illinois looks forward to partnering with the Office of Broadband to leverage this broadband investment to increase access to services delivered via telehealth, and therefore, improve equity and health outcomes for patients in need," said Nancy Kaszak, Director of the Illinois Telehealth Initiative at the Partnership for a Connected Illinois. "I applaud Governor Pritzker for his leadership on this issue. This historic investment into

broadband will allow Illinois to become a leader on telehealth. This opens the door for healthcare in rural and underserved communities, particularly for opioid addiction recovery and behavioral health care for children around the state."

"Broadband connects people, stimulates entrepreneurship, and helps close the skills gap in rural and disadvantaged communities," said Bill McBride, executive director of the National Governors Association. "Our research and work with governors' offices on broadband shows that investments in this critical infrastructure pay social and economic dividends for years to come. We applaud Governor Pritzker for his leadership in bringing high-speed, affordable broadband access to the people of Illinois."

"The Connect Illinois Broadband Strategic Plan rightly recognizes that ubiquitous broadband usage is a necessary part of delivering Illinois' future progress in agriculture, energy, health care, information, manufacturing, and transportation," said Jonathan Sallet, Former General Counsel, Federal Communications Commission. "That's why it's so important that the Illinois broadband plan seeks progress on deployment, plus digital skills and equity."

"Broadband grants will help extend quality, high-speed service to hard-to-reach areas of the state," said Josh Shallenberger, CEO of the Shelby Electric Cooperative. "Like rural electrification a century before, Connect Illinois will drive progress throughout meaningful partnership."

# PRITZKER ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES REVENUE FIGURES FOR FIRST MONTH OF ADULT USE CANNABIS

## STATE'S NEW ADULT-USE CANNABIS INDUSTRY GENERATED OVER \$10 MILLION IN CANNABIS AND RETAIL SALES TAX REVENUE

The Illinois Department of Revenue announced that adult-use cannabis sales generated \$7,332,058 in cannabis tax revenue during the month of January, with an additional \$3,147,928.29 generated in retail sales tax revenue. Governor Pritzker's recently released budget conservatively estimated the state would collect \$28 million in cannabis tax revenue during the remainder of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2020. Today's announcement puts the state on track to surpass that estimate.

Once administrative fees are accounted for, 45% of the adult-use cannabis tax revenue will be reinvested in communities disproportionately impacted by the failed war on drugs and used to fund substance abuse and mental health programs. The \$3,147,928.29 in sales tax revenue will be divided between the state's general revenue fund and the local governments where purchases were made.

"Today marks another milestone in the successful launch of Illinois' legal cannabis industry. Our goal has been to build the nation's most socially equitable program that includes new opportunities for the communities most harmed by the failed war on drugs. Revenue raised in this first month will soon begin flowing back into those communities to begin repairing the damage done by the failed policies of the past and creating new opportunities for those who have been left behind for far too long," said Toi Hutchinson, Senior Advisor to Governor Pritzker for Cannabis Control.

The state collects cannabis revenue in two ways: a variable excise rate dependent on THC potency and type of product, and a 7% cultivators excise tax imposed on the sale of cannabis to retailers. Earlier this month, the state announced that over \$39 million in adult-use cannabis product was sold at retail stores.

Last Wednesday, Governor Pritzker released his Fiscal Year 2021 budget, which projected cannabis sales would generate \$28 million in cannabis tax revenue for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2020 (ending June 30, 2020). As the industry matures, revenues are estimated to grow to \$127 million in FY21, of which \$46 million will go to General Funds.

### CANNABIS TAX RATES

- Cannabis Cultivation Privilege Tax:
- 7% of the gross receipts from the sale of cannabis by a cultivator or a craft grower to a dispensing organization
- Cannabis Purchaser Excise Tax:
- 10% of the purchase price - Cannabis with a THC level at or below 35%
- 20% of the purchase price - All cannabis infused products
- 25% of the purchase price - Cannabis with a THC level above 35%
- This tax is not imposed on cannabis that is subject to tax under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act.

### ALLOCATION OF STATE REVENUE

- Minus administrative costs, the remaining state revenue will be allocated as follows:
- 35% for the General Revenue Fund,
- 25% for the Criminal Justice Information Projects Fund to support the R3 program,
- 20% for the Department of Human Services Community Services Fund to address substance abuse and prevention, and mental health concerns,
- 10% for the Budget Stabilization Fund to pay the backlog of unpaid bills,
- 8% for the Local Government Distributive Fund to support crime prevention programs, training, and interdiction efforts, including detection, enforcement, and prevention efforts, relating to the illegal cannabis market and driving under the influence of cannabis, and
- 2% for the Drug Treatment Fund to fund public education campaigns and to support data collection and analysis of the public health impacts of legalizing the recreational use of cannabis.

---

# HIGHER EDUCATION AGENCIES FIND ANOTHER YEAR OF RECORD INVESTMENT IN GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

**S**PRINGFIELD—Higher education funding for public universities and community colleges in Illinois would gain a \$109.7 million increase according to Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal for fiscal year 2021.

This includes dedicated financial support through the state's need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant program to make community college tuition-free for eligible students whose families make less than \$45,000 per year.

The three higher education boards say students will benefit from the governor's proposed investment through greater access, equity, and attainment.

"This is outstanding news for students across the state as well as our colleges and universities that serve them," said Ginger Ostro, executive director, IBHE. "This second year of increased investment signals that we have a champion who understands how important higher education is to students, families, employers, and the state as a whole."

In addition, the governor's proposal to bring each of Illinois' public universities into the national Common Application would allow students to fill out one application for 12 universities, eliminating one barrier to access.

The overall higher education budget proposal totals \$2.178 billion, which would reflect a 5.4 percent increase over the current year's budget.

Increases would include:

- \$55.6 million (5 percent) for public universities
- \$14.9 million (5 percent) for community colleges and adult education
- \$50 million for MAP
- \$1 million to convert all Illinois public universities to the national Common Application

"The governor's commitment to an additional \$50 million for MAP can truly change the trajectory for college access in Illinois," said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of the Illinois

Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency. "An appropriation of \$501 million for MAP in FY 2021 will, for the first time in decades, allow us to provide a MAP award to nearly all MAP-eligible students. Expanded funding for MAP is critical as Illinois invests in low-income students."

A MAP set aside for community college students will mean that 15 percent (\$75 million) of MAP dollars will be used specifically for that group of learners. "The investment in a MAP set aside for community college students is a commitment to equity, access and attainment for working families in Illinois," said Brian Durham, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. "This set aside will allow community college students to make decisions knowing they will have the support of the state."

The governor's suggested increase in MAP would make community college tuition-free for all MAP-eligible students with family income under \$45,000 who also receive a federal Pell Grant. Overall, increased MAP funding will extend assistance to an additional 20,000 students, which is over and above the 10,000 additional MAP and AIM HIGH students who are being funded in this fiscal year.

His budget also provides funding for statewide implementation of the national Common Application. Streamlining the application process for the state's public, four-year universities will allow students to use just one form to apply to all. "It's a way to make the application process simpler for students," said Ostro.

The Common App provision would make Illinois the first state with all public four-year universities using one application. Currently, students from Illinois were the fifth largest group that used the Common App, but they were using it to apply to out-of-state schools.

Highlights of the proposed budget:

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

- A \$50 million increase in MAP funding to

\$501 million, an historic high for the annual appropriation for a statewide grant program that helps make college possible for low-income students

- Continued funding for the AIM HIGH Grant pilot program, through which public universities offer means-tested, merit-based aid to attract and support Illinois students

- The proposed budget also increases state support for ISAC's college access and outreach services as federal funding for these programs declines, ensuring that students and families statewide will continue to have access to one-on-one mentoring and assistance with the college-going and financial aid process.

Illinois Community College Board:

- An increase of \$14.9 million (5 percent) for the community college operating grants and the adult education system

- \$5 million to create a new grant program to expand community college apprenticeship programs

- 15 percent set-aside of MAP grants for community college students, which along with federal assistance will lead to tuition-free community college for students with family incomes under \$45,000.

Illinois Board of Higher Education:

- A 5 percent funding bump (\$55.6 million) for state universities

- \$1 million to expand use of the Common Application to public universities. Currently, only two universities—the University of Illinois Chicago and Chicago State University—use the Common Application.

- A 5 percent increase (\$947,000) for the Illinois Math and Science Academy.

---



---

# PUBLIC MUSEUM CAPITAL GRANTS PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

*APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 30*

**S**PRINGFIELD, ILL. - Public museums in Illinois can receive funding assistance to improve museum facilities and develop new exhibits through the Illinois Public Museum Capital Grants Program. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), which administers the program, is accepting applications from qualifying public museums. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2020.

A total of \$25 million in funding from the state's Rebuild Illinois capital program has been made available for public museum capital grants for Fiscal Year 2020. Grant awards for qualifying projects can range from \$25,000 to a maximum of \$750,000.

Public Museum Capital Grants are available to non-profit public museums that meet the following criteria:

- Must have been open to the public, for its instruction and enjoyment, for at least two years;
- Must be operated by or located upon land or owned by a unit of local government or certified as a public museum;
- Must meet professional standards of the appropriate accreditation program;



*Photo credit to [www.illinoisstatemuseum.org](http://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org)*

- Must have a professional staff;
- Must care for and own or utilize tangible options and present programs and exhibits; and
- Must be open to the public on a regular schedule and must collect and maintain auditable attendance data.

Applicants must be pre-qualified at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/> to receive grants from the State of Illinois. For detailed information on the application process, museum eligibility, matching fund requirements, and a copy of the application form, check

the IDNR website at <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/grants/Pages/Museum-Capital-Grants.aspx>.

Interested applicants may call the IDNR Office of Grant Management and Administration at 217-782-7481 or email [DNR.Grants@Illinois.gov](mailto:DNR.Grants@Illinois.gov). To view the Notice of Funding Opportunity, visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grants/SitePages/CSFA.aspx>.

---

THIS WEEK IN

# PHOTOS



Photos from Washington, D.C. & Counties Across America



County leaders check in at NACo's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We welcome county officials from across the country to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents.



Officials in Miami-Dade County, Fla. and Erie County, N.Y. brief residents on preparation and prevention efforts of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).



NACo officers and Executive Director Matthew Chase meet with The Washington Post, POLITICO and The Wall Street Journal to discuss the NACo Legislative Conference and federal policies, including opioids and substance abuse, coronavirus, tax policy, mental health and jails, and transportation and infrastructure.





County leaders and the U.S. Department of Energy discuss potential collaboration on local and national energy goals.



Orange County, Calif. officials visit NACo HQ to discuss the Water Resources Development Act 2020 authorization.



The Lancaster County, Neb. Board and Corrections Dept. honor 2019 Employee of the Year Joslynn McSwine (center), who performed the Heimlich maneuver to save an inmate's life.



NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase shares a legislative update during the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers' first-ever Legislative and Leadership Summit.



NACo Chief Technology Officer Rita Reynolds highlights how public-private technology partnerships can facilitate citizen engagement.



The Annual Tarrant County, Texas Transportation Summit examines the future of public-private partnerships.



California State Association of Counties officers and staff and Elmore County, Ala. officials advocate for federal policy priorities on Capitol Hill, including a meeting with U.S. Rep. Martha Roby.



# MEMBERS OF UCCI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PARTICIPATE IN NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

UCCI Executive Committee Members ... David Meyer, President; David Zimmerman, Vice-President; Joseph Payette, Secretary; Matthew Prochaska and Samuel Newton (Members), joined nearly 2,000 county leaders in Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference.

"Federal decisions have direct and long-lasting impacts on county government," said NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson. "This conference is an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our federal partners as we share our own best practices with one another."

President Donald J. Trump addressed county leaders and pledged that his administration will continue to be a "friend, partner, ally and resource" to America's county governments.

Other speakers included U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Ben Carson; General Colin Powell, former Secretary of State and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield, M.D.

Participants also met with members of the Trump administration and bipartisan members of Congress on several key federal policy priorities like pre-trial detainee health care and recidivism, election security, the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, broadband accessibility and revitalizing American infrastructure.

The conference featured three briefings on Capitol Hill.

- One on the intersection of health and justice in county jails.
- One on the county role in elections
- And, another on county priorities in transportation and infrastructure legislation

There were more than two dozen policy

workshops featuring county officials and other leaders in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. They focused on topics like the opioid crisis, early childhood investments, workforce and economic

development, transportation and infrastructure, public health and safety, mental health and jails and cybersecurity and technology.



Top: From left to right: David Zimmerman, Samuel Newton, David Meyer, and Joseph Payette  
Bottom: From left to right: David Zimmerman, Joseph Payette, and Matthew Prochaska



# PRESIDENT TRUMP ADDRESSES NACO GENERAL SESSION

**P**resident Trump took breaks from touting the United States' economic growth to stress his commitment to a strong relationship between the federal and local governments during Tuesday's General Session at NACO's Legislative Conference. It was the first appearance by a sitting U.S. president at a NACO conference in 24 years.

"I want you to know that my administration will always be your friend, your partner, your ally and resource as you work to deliver an amazing future, for your counties and for your communities and for the country itself," he said.

He reviewed his administration's three years, highlighting military investments, tax cuts and regulatory reform.

"You know the regulation business better than any group I can think of," he said. "We've cut regulations at a level that nobody had ever thought possible and we did it with the help of local officials, people like yourself that work with us and work with the Department of Transportation and all the other departments that we work with."

He set a goal of new roads being able to pass the approval process within a year, though he acknowledged safety and environmental study requirements could make that difficult.

Trump lauded county health departments for their work responding to coronavirus contagion.

"Six weeks ago, eight weeks ago, you never heard of this," he said. "All of a sudden it's got the world aflutter."

"Things happen that you never even think would happen and you have to confront it, you have to do a lot of good work and you take care of the situation," he said. "You people do it better than anyone I can think of. America has the world's most advanced public health system. We know that our county health officials play a front-line role in battling public health threats and we are working with Congress very closely to pass supplemental legislation to ensue state and county health departments get everything they need."

He mentioned efforts to work with pharmaceutical producers to accelerate vaccine development. Trump was pleased to see Sen. Charles Schumer's (D-N.Y.) much higher request as part of a bipartisan emergency funding measure for local hospitals to combat the virus.



*Photo credit to naco.org*

"I asked for \$2.5 billion, it looks like they're going to give us \$8.5 billion," he said. "I should say 'I'll take it,' right?"

Trump stressed the importance of the more than 3,000 county officials' trips to the White House in the past three years in response to invitations extended to every county elected official.

"My administration has made engagement with local leaders a top priority because nobody understands the needs of local communities better than local officials and people in this room," he said.

He also advocated for greater funding for mental health intervention, particularly in communities.

"County jails were not meant to deal with the mental illness problem," he said to a standing ovation. "It's not compassionate to leave those with mental illness on the streets."

Trump promoted the Opportunity Zones program, part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 that allows tax breaks for investments in projects located in low-income census tracts designated by governors.

"Areas that haven't seen investment in 40 years," he said. "Things like that help make the economy good."

"This is a thing where people are investing in areas that they never ever in a million years would have invested in and it's becoming a tremendous success."

Trump invited Lea County, N.M. Commissioner

Rebecca Long and Pasco County, Fla. Kathryn Starkey onto the stage to elaborate how his administration has helped their counties.

"Your energy agenda is helping us with quicker right of way permits on BLM land and drilling permits, we're getting those faster so that's helping America be energy independent," Long said.

Starkey spoke of the consequences of Hurricane Irma.

"Counties were getting into bidding wars over debris removal contracts, and they were creating affordable prices for other municipalities," she said. A call to the White House's Intergovernmental Affairs offices prompted a conference call with the Federal Emergency Management Agency that yielded an emergency rule change that resolved the situation.

"This would not have happened without the incredible outreach from the White House early on," Starkey said.

"As long as I am president, the federal government is on your side 100 percent," Trump told the audience. "You always have a very important seat at the table and you'll always find an open door at the White House."

Earlier in the morning, he had visually surveyed the room.

"There's a lot of power in this room. You don't know the power you have."

He waited a beat.

"Yes... you do."



# UCCI ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

**U**nited Counties Council of Illinois recently held its annual Legislative Conference in Springfield at the Sangamo Club. This two-day event allowed attendees the opportunity to meet and interact with county board members from across the state and exchange ideas on how to better serve their constituents and the communities they represent; to visit with local legislators and discuss issues impacting local government; and, to receive training and education on enacted legislation, programs/services available to county government, and local/national issues impacting the citizens of Illinois.

## **February 25 • Legislative Day**

•During the monthly Membership meeting, held Tuesday afternoon, UCCI Executive Director Mike McCreery provided an update on legislation pending before the Illinois General Assembly.

•An afternoon visit to the Capitol allowed personal visits to be made with legislators to discuss local issues and the opportunity to see lawmakers in action during committee hearings.

•The Tuesday evening Legislative Reception hosted by UCCI was well-attended by members of the Illinois General Assembly and provided a social atmosphere for casual conversation with lawmakers from across the state of Illinois.

## **February 26 • Education Seminar**

The Wednesday half-day, three-part seminar provided valuable training/education and resources for attendees.

•Connecting Illinois: Toward Universal Broadband Access ... and Impact



Matt Schmit, Deputy Director of Broadband, with the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, presented on the Connect Illinois Program.

Mr. Schmit provided a detailed overview of the program ... enlightening attendees on the vision of the program; outlining the composition/purpose of the Broadband Advisory Council and working groups; describing the goals of the Broadband

Strategic Plan; discussing broadband access, adoption and utilization through digital literacy, adoption and inclusion, community planning/capacity building, and infrastructure; and, directing attention to the 'Broadband Grand Application' process/funding opportunity.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

•Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor

Patrick Delfino, Director, Office of the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, presented on the duties and responsibilities of his office. During his presentation, Mr. Delfino outlined the wide array of services available through his office to county governments and emphasized the primary objective of his office was the delivery of quality professional services to all participating counties in compliance with legislative mandates

•First Amendment Audit Preparedness  
~ "Right to Film in Public Spaces"

Jason Brokaw and John Gabala, Attorneys from the Springfield law firm of Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, presented on 'First Amendment Audits'.

This multimedia presentation provided to the audience examples of actual First Amendment Audit encounters that happened in Illinois, and clearly



illustrated the need for counties to be prepared ... discuss how these audits are to be handled before one takes place; develop and adopt content-neutral rules on recordings; identify and provide notice of restricted areas; and, provide education/training to county employees on First Amendment Audit encounters. Attendees gained valuable information

on the do's and don'ts when encountering a First Amendment Audit; filing of claim/suit resulting from actual or perceived violation of auditor's protected rights; First Amendment Audit rights/governing body meetings; and, Illinois Eavesdropping Law/Exceptions.

## VISIT TO THE CAPITOL STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD

**W**hile in Springfield for the UCCI Legislative Conference, an afternoon visit to the Capitol turned into quite the adventure for several of the Stephenson County Board representatives.

At the conclusion of their meeting with Representative Andrew Chesney in his office, he personally escorted Board Members Casey Anthony, Andy Schroeder and Rebecca Quiggle, along with County Administrator Georgia Newcomer, through the tunnels to the Capitol. While touring the House Chamber, they stood at the desk of the Speaker of the House, and also learned some interesting history about the south wing of the third floor from the security guard, who had been



employed there for a number of years.

"The security guard was awesome and gave a lot of 'insider' information and funny stories"

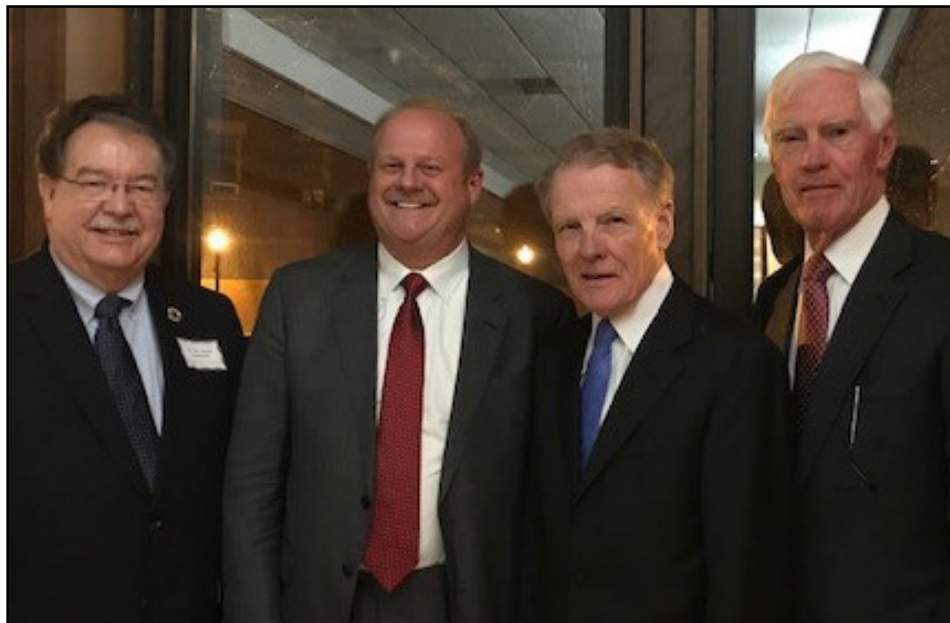
... "It really was a great experience" ... Georgia Newcomer, Stephenson County Administrator.



# LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION WELL ATTENDED BY ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

**A**lways a highlight of the annual Legislative Conference is the reception hosted for members of the Illinois General Assembly, where UCCI members have the opportunity to talk with lawmakers in a social atmosphere about the issues impacting local government and the constituents they serve as county board members; and, this year was no exception.

Senators and Representatives from all parts of Illinois attended this year's reception held at the Sangamo Club in Springfield on Tuesday evening, February 25th.



*Speaker Madigan meets with UCCI members and staff*



PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 15





## UCCI RECEIVES \$1 MILLION ROYALTY CHECK

**D**uring the January 27, 2020 UCCI Membership meeting, Mr. Gregg Peterson, Plan Administrator for the UCCI sponsored insurance program Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT), presented UCCI President David Meyer with the first 2020 royalty check in the amount of \$1,060,296.

Mr. Peterson reported that 2020 renewals, to date, have increased over 2019, and that membership now totals 365 units of local government. Mr. Peterson announced that as a result of member school districts operating on a different fiscal year, an additional royalty check would be coming to UCCI in July 2020.

President Meyer congratulated Mr. Peterson and his staff for their continuing hard work each year to keep the UCCI sponsored insurance programs successful. President Meyer also reminded the membership that the royalty received by UCCI is the source of funds that allows UCCI to do what it does ... education



*Photo credit to naco.org*

programs, training seminars, dues refunds, all functions/programs at no cost to members.

Developed by United Counties Council of Illinois in 1983, Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust, administered by Insurance Program Managers Group (IPMG), has been the leader in providing insurance and risk management services to Illinois public entities,

including counties, municipalities, townships, park districts, special districts, public school districts and community colleges. ICRMT offers a full line of coverage options, including property, liability and workers' compensation designed to meet the needs of the participants.

## UNITED COUNTIES COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

217.544.5585

UCCI@unitedcounties.com | www.unitedcounties.com

### United Counties Council of Illinois Officers/Executive Committee Members

**David Meyer, President**  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Joseph Payette, Secretary**  
CARROLL COUNTY

**Matthew Prochaska**  
KENDALL COUNTY

**David Zimmerman, Vice President**  
TAZEWELL COUNTY

**P.E. Cross, Treasurer**  
HAMILTON COUNTY

**Mark Kern**  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY

**Samuel L. Newton**  
STEPHENSON COUNTY

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR COUNTY?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have an article you would like shared in the  
next newsletter, email Ryan at

***Ryan@FrontlineCo.com***