

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

STEPHANIE KIFOWIT



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Happy Holiday Season

Happy December

A week to go until Christmas and only a couple weeks left of the year! I can't believe how fast time is passing by. Hopefully we get a sheet of white snow on Christmas Day, but after living in the Midwest for some time now, who knows what our weather will be like next week! Thank you to everyone who donated to our Toys for Tots drive. You helped make Christmas special for a child who otherwise might not have had a good Holiday.

I'm very also very excited that my son was able to secure leave and will be in town for the Christmas holiday. As I've mentioned before, please keep all our active duty servicemembers in your thoughts as they continue to serve even over the holidays.

I have listed some great state programs and esources below for you to look over. As the chillier weather arrives, and the holidays among us, be kind to one another and lend a hand to a neighbor or friend in need. My district office is always available for assistance if you or anyone else needs any help. Reach out to my office at (630) 585-1308.

I hope that you all have a great holiday season, celebrating as you and your family enjoy.

Take care and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.



P.S. I know the holidays can be difficult for many individuals. If you need someone to talk to or if you are feeling depressed please call a friend, a family member or even our office. The Depression help hotline at 866-903-3787 and [you can click here for more information.](#)

Toys For Tots 2021

The original Toys for Tots project was founded in 1947 by Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks, and it became a nonprofit public charity at the behest of the Marine Corps in 1991. The organization is still run exclusively by Veteran Marines today.

Every year my district office has our annual Toys For Tots Drive where we fill two bins to the brim with toys that will go to a child this holiday season. This year we surpassed our donations from last year with our bins overflowing with toys, games, and more! Thank you to everyone who stopped by my office to donate.



Hearing From Veterans in the Community

Last week I traveled to VFW Post 6791 in West Chicago to discuss issues facing our Veteran Community with State Representative Hirschauer who hosted the event. As the Chair of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, hearing from our service men and women is the best way to understand what policies need to be changed or implemented to assist the Veterans of Illinois.

There's always something that can be done, so thank you to everyone who attended and for sharing your thoughts and ideas. Thank you to Representative Hirschauer for hosting this event as well and for allowing our Veterans to share their experiences.

If you would like me to speak to a group about what Illinois is doing to support our Veterans please let me know.



Representative Hirschauer & Kifowit with Local Veterans at Post 6791

Illinois Rental Payment Program Dec. 6th - Jan. 9th

Tenants behind on rent due to Covid-19 can apply for up to \$25,000 in rental assistance through the Illinois Rental Payment Program between December 6th and January 9th!

WILL COUNTY 

COMEBACK

GRANTS & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM




**ILLINOIS RENTAL
PAYMENT PROGRAM**

The Illinois Rental Payment Program provides assistance to eligible Illinois renters impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Tenants whose application is approved will receive a one-time grant of up to \$25,000 paid directly to their landlord to cover missed rent payments beginning June 2020 and prepay payment through April 2022, or until the grant is exhausted, whichever comes first. Both landlords and tenants participate in the joint application process.

ILRPP is designed to help tens of thousands of Illinois renters avoid eviction and stay safe and in place during this public health crisis. Please note: an application is not a guarantee of assistance.

Will County tenants can apply for assistance at www.willcountyillinois.org or call

Health Coverage Enrollment Runs until January 15 2022

YOUR HEALTH COVERAGE ENROLLMENT STARTS HERE

Open Enrollment for the
ACA Marketplace Begins Nov. 1



Open Enrollment for the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace started on Nov. 1, 2021. Don't forget to review and compare your health plan options before you choose or renew for 2022. Free assistance is available to help you enroll and you may qualify for financial help. Visit: <https://GetCoveredIllinois.gov>

Veteran Peer Supporter Training January 13th, 14th, 15th 2022

Any Veterans looking to serve and assist their fellow Veterans with mental and social health training please see below for more info! Email info@illinoisjoiningforces.org or call Jim Dolan at (630)-750-5522 with any questions or additional information.

Apply for the Supporter Training Online by [Completing the Application Here](#).



COMMUNITY VETERAN PEER SUPPORTER TRAINING

for
Aurora Region Veterans

NEW DATES: January 13, 14, 15 2022

Who:
All Aurora Region Veterans willing to serve other Veterans

What:
Free Community Veteran Peer Training (Limited #)

Where:
Online Training

When: **NEW DATES**
January 13th, 14th, 15th

How: Apply online – <https://forms.gle/KqvkSZFFb5NKL4ov9>

Why:
To provide you with the knowledge, skills and training to support fellow Veterans in your community.

Questions or want more information, please contact:

Illinois Joining Forces by email at: info@illinoisjoiningforces.org

Subject line: PEER TRAINING

Or, contact:
Jim Dolan at 630-750-5522

TO APPLY, GO ONLINE TO:
<https://forms.gle/KqvkSZFFb5NKL4ov9>

The **Community Veteran Peer Training** is available at no cost to veterans willing to serve their fellow veterans in the Aurora Region. Veterans must be willing to complete a 3-day virtual peer training course, plus one additional day (TBD) of *Mental Health First Aid Training*.

PURPOSE
The goal of the Community Veteran Peer Supporter course is to prepare Veterans with the skills to assist other Veterans who are going through difficult transitions as it relates to social determinants of health.

OUTCOMES
Upon completion of the course:

1. Veterans will be well versed in the use of problem-solving tools such as motivational interviewing and SMART goals to assist another Veteran to develop their own goals.
2. Create strategies for self-empowerment, and take concrete steps towards building fulfilling, self-determined lives for themselves.
3. Peer supporter ethics will instruct on setting appropriate peer to peer boundaries and strategies to implement them.
4. **Mental Health First Aid** will reinforce the role of the Community Veteran Peer Supporter as a lay person lacking clinical expertise and insight and to clearly define the role as one of a peer providing support.

COMMITMENT

1. 30 hours of Virtual Peer Training.*
2. Must be available for training on **January 13th, 14th, 15th ~ 2022**. And, one addition day of training. TBD.
3. Agree to serve other Aurora Region Veterans for up to 10 hours a month for a minimum period of 12 months after completion of the

Sponsored by:

Special thanks to the [Dunham Foundation](#) for their generous financial support.

DUNHAM FOUNDATION

In Partnership with:

[Illinois Joining Forces](#) is proud to bring this important training to the Aurora Region veterans in partnership with the [Kane County Veterans Assistance Commission](#) & [Roosevelt/Aurora American Legion Post #84](#)

**The course work is designed to provide the flexibility of distance learning while creating a focused learning environment that allows skill development through interpersonal interaction.*



Illinois Joining Forces www.illinoisjoiningforces.org 833-INFO-IJF (463-6453)

Energy Assistance for Winter Applications Open until May 31st 2022

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Citizens Utility Board are reminding residents to apply for \$200 million remaining in utility assistance under Gov. JB Pritzker’s Help Illinois Families initiative, an expansion of the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program under the American Rescue Plan.

Designed to support Illinois’ most vulnerable families, the program will help cover the cost of heating and energy bills, including expanded benefits provided this year from \$750 to \$1,000, on average per household. Last day to apply **online** with the Request for Services form is **April 15**. After that date you can still apply through your local administering agency through May 31 2022.

To learn more and to fill out a new application, visit helpillinoisfamilies.com



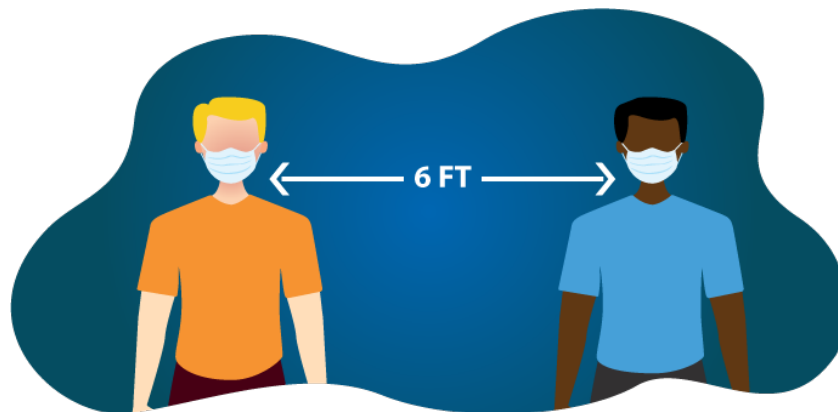
COVID-19 Updates

I'm excited COVID-19 booster shots are becoming more and more available with holiday travel upon us. Thank you for doing your part in getting the vaccine or a booster, wearing a mask when needed, hand sanitizing, and keeping your distance to stop the spread.

Family gatherings are an important part of the holiday season and in celebrating the festivities. Getting your vaccines not only keeps you healthy and safe, but everyone else around you as well. The best protection against the recently emerged Omicron variant is getting fully vaccinated and getting a booster shot.

If you need assistance in obtaining a Covid Vaccine or a Flu shot contact my district office and we can find a Vaccine Clinic near you. Or click on this link [Here](#) to locate a clinic online.

If you are in need of more information on the vaccine, booster shots, and travel guidance for the 2021 holiday season please visit [IDPH](#) for information!



Facebook Live Every Monday at 9:00am

I continue to host Monday Morning Coffee live via Facebook at 9:00am-10:00am where you can post your comments and questions.

I realize not everyone has Facebook. The good news is that you can still participate. If you would like to join us on Monday mornings, you can join in via ZOOM! Once connected via ZOOM, you'll be able to interact just as if you were on Facebook. Don't worry you will not

be on live - your video feed and mic will be muted.

The ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone separately for Monday morning participation.

If you would like to join us, please email Michelle@ILDistrict84.com or call the office at 630.585.1308.

f LIVE

**MONDAY MORNING
COFFEE WITH
REPRESENTATIVE KIFOWIT**
9:00am

You can find us on FB :
@ILDistrict84

630.585.1308

stephanie.kifowit@att.net

[Visit our website](#)

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[Facebook](#)