



August 2025 Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025
3:30pm-5:00pm

Locations

Virtual Meeting via Webex:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m3072d755d73a53d42e8f143d7e273d68>

In-Person Meeting at:

Chicago: 401 South Clinton Street Chicago, IL 60607 -- 7th floor executive conference room

Springfield: 100 S Grand Ave E Springfield, IL 62762 -- 3rd floor executive conference room

Duke University Bryan Center 125 Science Drive, Durham, North Carolina

Agenda

1. Call to Order – Natalie Furllett, Serve IL Board Chair
 2. Roll Call
 - a. **Commissioners Present Virtually:** Catherine Leonis, Shelly Long, Noureen Hashim, Gwendolyn Moss, Amy Rueff, Jamarco Clark, John Gremer, Howard Latham, Tiffany Holmes, Allison Angeloni, LaCaje Hill.
 - b. **Commissioners Present In-Person:** Carolyn Roberts, Maria Doughty, Rosie Drumgoole, Natalie Furllett, Stephanie Willding, Benjamin Kagan, Dr. Maggie Rivera, Laura Stukel
 - c. **IDHS Staff Present:** Cory Blissett, Andres J. Fernandez, Barbara Hobrock
 - d. **Guests Present:** Guests of Maggie Rivera
 3. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Did not meet quorum and will approve minutes at the next meeting.
 4. Serve Illinois Board Chair Update – Natalie Furllett
 - a. Subcommittee Reports - Executive, Relational, Programmatic, Operational:
 - i. **Executive**
 1. Oversight of subcommittees and board.
 2. Comprised of Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, Chair and Co-Chair of each subcommittee, and staff.
 3. Will meet on September 29th, 2025, for updates from the committees.
-

ii. Relational

1. Cathy provided an update that the committee met the week of August 25th to discuss the committee's role and next steps.
2. Questions such as how do we move forward in a positive direction in the future? How do we engage our AmeriCorps members with the start of the new program year. What capacity do commissioners have to help engage? How do we tell the story of Serve IL, especially with the changing landscape of nonprofits and the need for more volunteers?
3. Noureen agreed and the committee is actively seeking more committee members.

iii. Programmatic

1. Rosie and Amy have not met as a full committee, but they are actively identifying what the goals and structure could look like. The committee will connect after Labor Day.
2. Amy provided an update regarding the Governor's Hometown Awards, including information about the winner (City of Springfield) and finalists (East St. Louis and Elk Grove).
3. Jamarco will invite the winners to his campus.
4. Amy actively seeking judges for the Governor's Volunteer Service Awards.
5. There will be highway sign dedications for the finalists and winner in the 2nd and 3rd weeks in October. Deputy Governor Hou and several commissioners would like to attend where they can. Andres will keep the commission updated.

iv. Operational

1. Carolyn provided an update that the committee has already met to discuss which metrics to track/report on at each meeting and Laura agreed.
2. Working on adding more members to the committee to focus on the strategic plan.
3. Operations Committee Meeting on August 27th from 4:30pm-5:30pm to discuss next steps.

b. Outreach to Deputy Governor Hou

- i. Cathy and Natalie wrote a letter to Deputy Governor Hou on behalf of the commission indicating Serve IL would like to discuss the future of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). How can volunteering positively impact the population and potentially allow them to keep some Medicaid and Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
- ii. Cathy and Natalie will meet with Deputy Governor Hou soon.

5. Serve Illinois Executive Director Update - Andres J. Fernandez

- a. Serve Illinois Program Year 2025-2026
-



- i. Program Year 2024 (we are still in PY24)
 - 1. 591 members have earned an award.
 - 2. 151 members are still earning an award (hopefully completed by 8/31)
 - ii. Program Year 2025 (we don't start until 9/1)
 - 1. We funded 24 programs and 724 members
 - a. 5 programs and 106 members are competitive traditional
 - b. 19 programs and 618 are formula traditional
 - iii. Funding
 - 1. Formula Traditional - \$9,384,995
 - 2. Competitive Traditional - \$2,142,743
 - 3. Foundation Funds – \$66,000
 - 4. Steans Family Foundation – \$40,000
 - 5. California Volunteer Fund – \$250,000 and will receive another \$250,000 in 2025-2026
 - 6. Commission Support Grant – \$489,138
 - 7. Commission Investment Fund – (N/A- in litigation)
 - iv. Contracts
 - 1. 44 (24 continuation and 20 continuance)
 - v. Staff
 - 1. As of today, we have 11 assigned to our bureau. Several team members have been temporarily assigned other areas of IDHS due to staffing needs elsewhere, and others have accepted promotions.
 - 2. Vacancies:
 - a. AAIL (Rachael is still helping the bureau but is temporarily assigned as an Executive II under Family and Community Services
 - b. Downstate Volunteer Coordinator: promoted to another bureau – likely 6 months to fill this position.
 - c. Upstate Volunteer Coordinator: left state government – likely 6 months to fill this position.
 - d. Communications Coordinator – likely won't be approved to fill
 - e. Social Service Program Planner – new staff starts Tuesday 9/2
 - f. Fiscal Manager – vacant. Likely won't be filled for 3 years.
 - b. Portfolio Updates: AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Volunteer Program
 - i. AmeriCorps:
 - 1. We are entering Program Year 2025 with 24 programs starting on 9/1/25. We have received both Notice of Grant Awards (NOGA) for competitive traditional and formula traditional grants.
 - 2. The AmeriCorps Team has been working on the Member Service Agreement (MSA) and Program Director's Manual (PDM) are in the final editing stages.
 - 3. All updated forms for PY 25 are officially on the website.
 - 4. Program Year 2025 orientation is scheduled virtually on August 27th from 9:00am-1:00pm.
-



- ii. Volunteer Program:
 - 1. The Volunteer Program is currently recruiting for the 9/11 National Day of Service Meal-Pack at Chicago Union Station. 392 individuals needed to fill one shift on 9/10 and four on 9/11. The UIC women's baseball team has signed up to be our guest on 9/10. They are bringing their entire team, plus coaches, to help set up for the meal pack event scheduled for 9/11. The team will receive the Office of the Governor Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Certificate of Appreciation.
 - 2. 9/11 Volunteer Recruitment Breakdown:
 - a. **Set Up (9/10):** 28 / 60
 - b. **9/11 Shift 1:** 61 / 111
 - c. **9/11 Shift 2:** 100 / 111
 - d. **9/11 Shift 3:** 21 / 85
 - e. **Breakdown/Clean Up (9/11):** 6 / 25
 - 3. In October, three communities will receive their highway signs as the finale of the Governor's Hometown Awards: City of Springfield - Fishing Tales and Bytes of Wisdom Project Category: Youth Development and Education, City of East St. Louis - Community Development Sustainable Solutions (CDSS) Project Category: Youth Development and Education, and finally, Village of Elk Grove - Salt Creek Cleanup Project Category: Environmental Stewardship. In addition, each finalist group of volunteers will receive the Office of the Governor Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Certificate of Appreciation.
 - c. Mandatory Trainings
 - i. Please remember to take the mandatory trainings and update Andres.
 - d. Welcome LaCaje Hill
 - i. Pleased to welcome LaCaje to the commission.
 - 6. Public Comment
 - a. Maggie Rivera had members of the public with her virtually.
 - 7. 2025 Meeting Dates
 - a. Next Meeting: November 5th, 2025 from 3:30pm-5:00pm
 - 8. Adjourn
-