

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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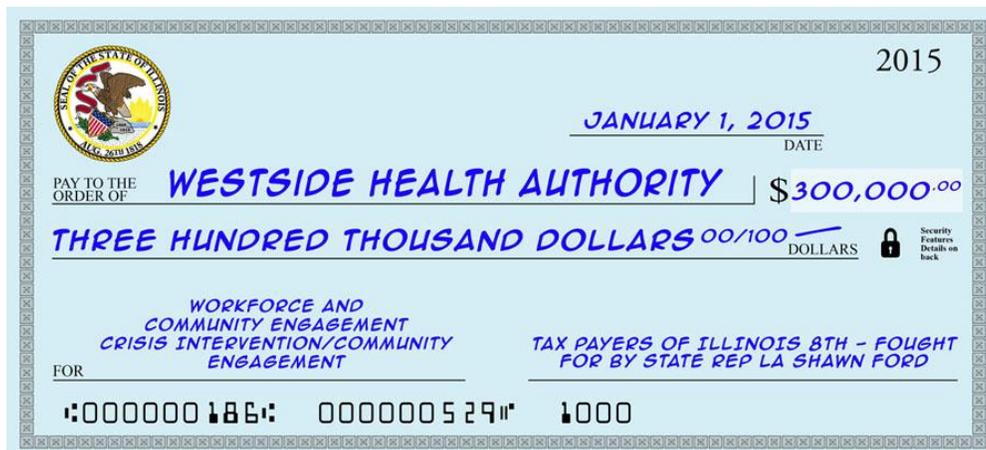
**For More Information:**  
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford  
773-378-5902

## Ford Secures State Funds for Westside Health Authority to Employ People to Improve Community Health

**CHICAGO** - The Westside Health Authority (WHA), a not-for-profit community-based organization in the Austin community on the West Side of Chicago, has received \$300,000 in state appropriations secured by State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, to provide crisis intervention to residents of North Austin with critical health needs.

Morris Reed, CEO of Westside Health Authority, praised Rep. Ford for his dedication. "We are so grateful to Rep. Ford for fighting to improve the lives of Austin residents," said Reed. "The funds are right on time to assist families who are struggling with a variety of needs that are left unmet." Through their Community Wellness Project, WHA will provide coordinated, non-clinical, in-home wellness visits and case management services to 1,500 residents within a 50 block radius in zip code 60651. Spanning over the course of five months, the Community Wellness Project seeks to engage, educate and empower North Austin community members to become actively involved in their own health.

"These are critical programs that are needed within our community," said Ford. "This grant will immediately put people to work in the Austin Community. Austin has a very high unemployment rate, and this grant will help to provide work and skills for those who are employed, and the funds that were secured will help to promote health and wellbeing within the community. We must ensure we are continually improving the quality of services and acting on potential barriers that may interfere with the health of the whole community."



For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962) or visit [www.lashawnford.com](http://www.lashawnford.com).

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