



**\*\*\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\***

**EVENT:** PRESS CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES  
**DATE:** Sunday, October 21, 2018  
**TIME:** 1:00 PM  
**PLACE:** JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER  
100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago IL 60601  
**PARTICIPANTS:** State Representative La Shawn K. Ford  
Illinois Department of Human Services  
**CONTACT:** Naimah Latif, 312-849-3456

**State Representative La Shawn Ford and IDHS To Announce New Mental Health Resources**

State Representative La Shawn K. Ford will be joined by representatives of the Illinois Department of Human Services at a Press Conference Sunday, October 21, 2018, at 1:00 pm at the James R. Thomson Center, 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, to raise awareness about the availability of mental health services in the State of Illinois.

“The suicide rate is high, and it’s exacerbated by the extreme violence, which adds to the emotional distress,” State Rep. Ford noted. “If you are a non-profit, and you provide mental health services, IDHS will tell you about grants that are available.”

The Department of Mental Health, under the Illinois Department of Human Services, is the State Mental Health Authority and is responsible for assuring that children, adolescents, and adults throughout Illinois have the availability of and access to publicly funded mental health services for those who are diagnosed with a mental illness or emotional disturbance and an impaired level of functioning based on a mental health assessment.

An estimated one in five Americans experience a mental illness every year, including Illinois residents of all ages, races and economic backgrounds. Yet it is estimated that about two thirds of individuals with mental illnesses go without treatment, due in large part to their inability to access care or to the stigma about mental illness that may keep them from seeking services.

On Sunday, State Representative La Shawn K. Ford will highlight strategies to address the mental health crisis in Illinois and how residents can get help for a wide range of mental disorders, including clinical depression, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, dementia, schizophrenia, and eating disorders.

