

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford Helps Pull Together West Side Organizations For Funding For Accurate Count

CHICAGO – On April 1, 2020, a Census will be conducted in order to count all people living in the United States. This headcount is crucial in determining local and state needs, in addition to, shaping political districts. Unfortunately, barriers to Census participation make some populations hard-to-count, which denies access to important resources needed in our communities. Chicago’s West Side communities are among these communities that are difficult to count.

State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-CH), took the lead to help pull West Side organizations together to help get an accurate count on Chicago’s West Side. The effort comes from the Illinois General Assembly appropriating \$29 million of the General Revenue Fund for Census outreach, education and mobilization.

“The Illinois General Assembly appropriated \$29 million of General Revenue Funds for Census outreach, education and mobilization,” said Ford. “That work is being launched now to prepare for a fair and accurate count. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) will be administering a statewide Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to issue grants to community providers and local governments to encourage full participation in the 2020 Census.”

Ford and West Side organizations voted for Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI) as the lead agency to apply for Census funding crucially needed for Chicago’s West Side. Ford hopes that the funding application headed by HSI will get chosen to help the effort of raising awareness of the importance of the 2020 Census for the West Side.

“Many West Side organizations have been doing census work in preparation for the 2020 census. I commend the organizations for their work and preparation for the 2020 census,” said Ford. “I fully support funding of West Side organizations for an accurate count in the 2020 census.”

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