

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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*... from the Illinois House of Representatives*

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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## **Ford's Program Development and Grant Writing Workshop Helps Charities Access Funding**

**CHICAGO** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) on Monday co-hosted a Grant Writing Seminar with the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Austin African American Business Networking Association. Thirty-five individuals, representing local non-profit, charitable, organizations attended to gain assistance with accessing the funds they need to continue doing important work to benefit our community.

“Local non-profit groups are an invaluable resource to all citizens, and it is our responsibility to work with them to support their work and the people they serve,” Ford said. “Unfortunately the recession has increased competition for grant funds, so this seminar was a great opportunity to understand the key components to writing unbeatable grant proposals.”

The impact of the recession nationwide has placed a significant strain on the non-profit community. According to the Urban Institute, a research and policy think tank, the non-profit community has experienced the simultaneous impact of fewer funds, less staff, and an increase in demand of services.

The organizations that were represented serve a diverse group of people. The attendees included representatives from organizations that service senior citizens, community health, and childcare providers, many of which provide services to people that the state would otherwise have to serve at a higher cost to taxpayers.

“Local non-profits are stretched far too thin; hopefully this opportunity will help many of them secure additional financial resources,” Ford said. “The non-profits in our community not only provide needed services to our community daily, they also provide jobs to area residents.”

For more information, contact Rep. Ford at his Constituent Service Office at (773) 378-3673.

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