

# Aviso Newsletter

[iahse.org](http://iahse.org)



February 2026

## **A letter to the membership:**

February may have been short, but it was certainly productive for the Board.

We are officially in full planning mode for the 16th Annual Latino Unity Day in Springfield, taking place on May 5th and 6th.

This powerful two-day event will feature impactful workshops on language access, immigration, and representation in state government. We will also stand together in solidarity with a march to the State Capitol as we continue advocating for and protecting our rights.

We look forward to engaging, *empoderando*, and mobilizing our *comunidad* once again.

In solidarity and gratitude ~ Team #IAHSE

## **Board Openings - update**

Muchas gracias for all of those who submitted their nomination applications and expressed an interest in joining our dynamic and dedicated team.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm shown throughout this process. The newly appointed Board Members will be introduced and welcomed to our membership in our next edition.

## **Recuerdos:**

- When transferring into a new state agency, members must resubmit a new IAHSE membership form to continue their membership. Payroll deductions do not transfer with members. Please keep this in mind when moving to another state agency & resubmit a new [IAHSE membership form](#).

- Are you a recent retiree? Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service to the State! Please resubmit an updated membership form with your updated preferred method of deductions to continue being a member. Deductions can be removed from your pension check or you may submit an annual amount to IAHSE. Please see the [membership form](#) for more information or e-mail us [IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov](mailto:IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov).

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### **ILLCF 4th Annual Latina Heritage Day Brunch - April 3, 2026 - Chicago**

The Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) is proud to host the 4th Annual Latina Heritage Day Brunch on April 3rd, celebrating Illinois' declaration of March 15th as Latina Heritage Day.

Click here for details.

### **Latino Unity Day - May 5-6 - Springfield**

Latino Unity Day celebrates a remarkable 16-year journey of advocacy, empowerment, and unity within the Latino community.

<https://latinopolicyforum.org/event/latino-unity-day-2026/>

IAHSE is collaborating with our partners at the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation this year to host an educational workshop for our members. Details to come.

### **IAHSE - 38th Annual Job Fair & Conference - October 2 - Northbrook**

## **Legislative Updates**

Bilingual report 2025:

Number of Bilingual Job Postings, Position Review Process, and Bilingual Pay

Bilingual positions are those positions that are established with language skills as a minimum criterion, as those language skills are required to be effective. Bilingual pay, which is negotiated with the State's largest labor partner and incorporated into administrative rule, is currently set at \$100 per month or 5% of an employee's base salary, whichever is higher. Employees not in bilingual positions who have language skills and use those skills in performance of their work are also entitled to enhanced pay for the time they used their skills to perform their job. The data below refers only to bilingual positions and employees receiving bilingual pay because they are employed in a bilingual position.

- 21 agencies combined to post 454 bilingual positions in FY25.
- 87.7% (398 positions) posted bilingual positions required Spanish language skills.
- 8.5% (39 positions) bilingual postings required Manual Communication language skills.
- 1.3% (6 positions) bilingual postings required Polish language skills.
- 0.9% (4 positions) bilingual postings required Arabic language skills.

The Department of Human Services continued to lead the State in the number of bilingual job postings in FY25 accounting for just over one third of all bilingual postings with 164 (36.1%) postings. The Department of Children and Family Services was the second leading creator of postings for bilingual positions accounting for 108 (23.7%) postings. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Department of Employment Security followed, with 27 (5.9%) bilingual postings each during FY25.

# Conozca a tu IAHSE Compañero(a)

## Ivette Alvarez

### Current State Agency & Title:

Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) – Human Services  
Caseworker

**City Based In:** South Suburban Family Community Resource  
Center (FCRC)

**How long have you worked for the State of Illinois?** 10 years

### What interested you in working for the State of Illinois & the current agency you are working for?

I was drawn to state service because I wanted a career centered on public service and making a meaningful impact in the community. I previously worked with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ), where I truly enjoyed working with at-risk youth and supporting their growth and rehabilitation. That experience strengthened my passion for helping vulnerable populations. At IDHS, I continue that commitment by assisting individuals and families in accessing essential benefits and support services that improve their quality of life.

### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy going to the gym, traveling, spending time with family, and participating in community events. I also value activities that promote personal growth and wellness.

### Any achievements that you wish to share? Professional and/or personal?

I am proud of my 10 years of service to the State of Illinois. Through the Upward Mobility Program, I earned my Master's degree last May, demonstrating my commitment to professional development. Most recently, I obtained my Licensed Social Worker (LSW) credential, further enhancing my ability to serve individuals and families in our community.



We will be featuring IAHSE members in our monthly newsletter highlighting our diverse and talented Latino/a/e/x membership. If you wish to be highlighted or nominate another IAHSE member, please email us at [IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov](mailto:IAHSE.Assoc@illinois.gov).

Join IAHSE! Scan QR code or click on the link below:  
[iahse.org/joiniahse](https://iahse.org/joiniahse)

