

OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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Treasurer Frerichs Announces Spanish-Language I-CASH Website

Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber, Moline-Area Officials Praise

Effort to Help People Find Missing Money

MOLINE --- Illinois residents can now search for missing money and unclaimed property in Spanish at a new <u>I-CASH website</u>, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced in Moline today.

The website, <u>es.icash.illinoistreasurer.gov/</u>, works the same way as its English-language counterpart, <u>icash.illinoistreasurer.gov</u>. You can enter your name or business name, city, and ZIP code into the search box and if the Treasurer's Office database of unclaimed property finds a match, a list of properties will pop up. You can then click to start filing a claim.

"We are always looking for ways to return even more missing money to people," Frerichs said. "Spanish is the second most-common language spoken in our state, and we are providing a tool to make it easier for more people to find unclaimed property and get it back where it belongs."

Other states rely on Google Translate, but the Illinois Treasurer's Office built a website from the groundup to better serve the needs of Spanish-speaking residents. All of the forms have been translated into Spanish.

Like the English-language website, Illinois' new Spanish-language site has a share (*compartir*) button, so you can let family and friends know if you spot their name, and they get an email alerting them to the potential claim.

Treasurer Frerichs made the announcement at Moline City Hall, joined by local officials who praised the website's usefulness.

"This will be tremendously helpful to our business owners and residents whose first language is Spanish," said Janessa Calderon, executive director of the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "They will have an easier time searching for unclaimed property and filing a claim."

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"One of Moline's strengths is its diversity, and the new Spanish-language I-CASH website will provide better service to residents in our community," Moline Mayor Sangeetha Rayapati.

In Rock Island County, the State Treasurer's Office is trying to return more than 240,000 unclaimed properties worth a combined \$40.3 million.

"I encourage my constituents to check the missing money database to see if there is money waiting for them to claim," State Rep. Gregg Johnson of East Moline said. "I applaud Treasurer Frerichs for adding another tool to help return that money."

Treasurer Frerichs' announcement about the Spanish-language I-CASH site comes a day after he announced the State Treasurer's Office has returned a record \$2 billion to residents on his watch.

More than 1.7 million people have been reunited with their missing money during Frerichs' tenure. Frerichs reached the \$2 billion mark by allowing people to file electronic claims, cutting red tape, and taking on powerful insurance companies.

"I have never stopped fighting to return money to people that rightfully belongs to them," Frerichs said. "We used common sense to improve the unclaimed property program, and as a result, so many Illinoisans have money in their pocket that can be used to help our state's economy."

About the Illinois Treasurer

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is a powerful economic engine that invests in people to drive prosperity, development and growth throughout the state. As State Treasurer, Michael Frerichs (FRAIR'-iks) is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer and actively manages approximately \$60 billion. The investments help families pay for college and trade school; workers save for a dignified retirement; and local governments process bill payments more efficiently so they can pass along the savings to taxpayers. The office provides financial institutions money to loan to farmers, small business owners, and qualified individuals at below-market rates because better jobs create stronger communities. The office operates the state's largest consumer-protection initiative, the unclaimed property I-Cash program, which has returned a record-breaking \$1.9 billion since Frerichs was elected.

For more news about the State Treasurer's Office, please follow Treasurer Frerichs on X (formerly Twitter) at <u>@ILTreasurer</u>, Instagram at <u>ILTreasurer</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u> and on Facebook at <u>Invested in You – Treasurer</u> Michael Frerichs.

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