



# Michael W. Frerichs

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## ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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MARCH 2018 E-NEWSLETTER

Treasurer's Note

## Investing in Illinois

The Illinois Treasurer serves as the state's chief investment officer. We invest approximately \$25 billion on behalf of the state, units of local government, and families saving for college.

However, I have long maintained that we must also invest in people. The best way to do that is to provide people the tools to invest in themselves.

One way we do this is to capitalize local banks and lending institutions. We provide money at below-market rates in return for their commitment to loan that money to individuals and businesses trying to better themselves and, by extension, their community.

Farmers are familiar with our popular Ag Invest program which has provided more than \$1 billion in loans over the years. Some homeowners are familiar with our Finally Home program that helps homebuyers who barely miss qualifying for a conventional mortgage. This year, we added a new program to the portfolio to help small businesses still wading through the ripple effects of the recession.

The Community Uplift Program commits \$500 million in new money to flow through local banking institutions to help individuals obtain loans at below-market rates to fund business growth or expansion. The program provides capital in a manner that supports community development while meeting our primary investment objectives of safety, liquidity, and return on investment.

Currently, 300 lending institutions are qualified to participate. Growing the number of institutions willing to participate in just one of these loan programs will help strengthen Illinois.

If you are a business owner, farmer, or potential homeowner, click [here](#) for more information. Bankers and other lending institutions can click [here](#).

When we work together, we can make Illinois a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely,  
**Michael W. Frerichs**  
Illinois State Treasurer



Illinois Turns 200

## Enter the Bicentennial Coin Contest

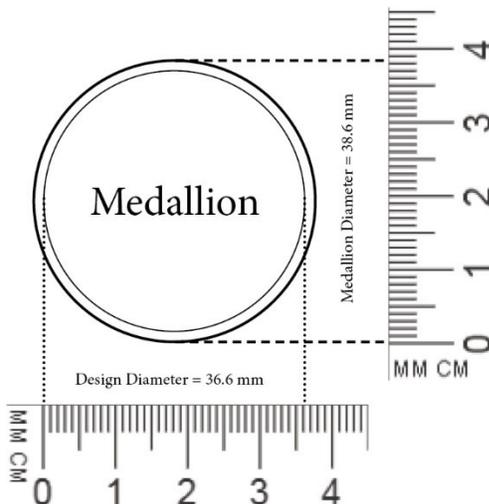
A **Bicentennial Coin Contest** is underway to create a coin that will celebrate the 200th birthday of the State of Illinois. Contestants are invited to design one side of the coin.

Design entries must be submitted by May 1, 2018, at [www.IllinoisCoinContest.com](http://www.IllinoisCoinContest.com). The winning design will be used for the commemorative bicentennial coin and the coin will be available for purchase. One entry per contestant. Contestants must be a resident of Illinois.

In June, the public will vote online to choose the winner from five finalists. The winner will be announced on June 18, 2018.

To read contest rules, terms and legal conditions, please visit [www.IllinoisCoinContest.com](http://www.IllinoisCoinContest.com).

The State of Illinois will celebrate its 200th birthday on December 3, 2018. This is the date Illinois became the 21st state in the union. The Illinois Bicentennial is a yearlong celebration of what has been born, built and grown in the state and a reminder of why we are #IllinoisProud. Citizens are encouraged to participate in the celebration by visiting [www.illinois200.com](http://www.illinois200.com) and using the hashtag #IllinoisProud.



# CREAM OF THE CROP

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



Cream of the Crop

## Pride in Agriculture

If it's March, it's Cream of the Crop.

The photo contest is part of the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Invest program. Grade school and high school students are invited to submit innovative and scenic photos that depict their vision of agriculture in our state.

Winning photos are used in informational materials for the Ag Invest program, the Ag Invest calendar, and featured at the Illinois State Fair. For contest rules, click [here](#).

Ag Invest is one of the nation's largest agricultural linked-deposit programs. It helps hundreds of Illinois farmers and agriculture professionals. The treasurer's office, through Ag Invest, partners with eligible lenders to offer farmers annual or long-term loans which can be used for operating costs, equipment purchases, construction-related expenses, and livestock purchases.

Want more information? Call (217) 557-6436 or click [here](#).



Charitable Trust

## Helping Each Other

Illinois lawmakers in 2007 created the Charitable Trust Stabilization fund. The purpose was to help small non-profit groups working in especially challenged economic areas. Money in the fund comes from the non-profit community, not Illinois taxpayers.

In 2011, lawmakers moved the administration of Charitable Trust to the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. The program was dormant until 2017.

Applications for grant money are being accepted through March 31, 2018. An 11-member board will consider the applications. This year, the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will focus on three categories: Food programs, housing, and workforce development and economic development.

For more information, and to complete an application, please click [here](#). Applicants without access to a computer or internet should call (312) 814-1817.

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## Scenes from Treasurer Frerichs' Women's History Month Celebration

Click [here](#) to view more photos.



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