



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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State Treasurer Michael Frerichs: Enhanced Money Match Returns Money Ahead of Holiday Shopping Season

**No Claim Needed as \$29 Million
to be Returned to 73,000 Residents Before Holidays**

SPRINGFIELD – More than 73,000 people are in line to receive up to \$5,000 from the state’s Unclaimed Property program and all they have to do is open their mailbox, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs said today.

The checks are part of the latest round of the Enhanced Money Match program that allows the Treasurer’s Office to automatically return money to individuals without the need to file a claim. Frerichs worked with the General Assembly to raise the limit on the amount of money that can be returned this way to \$5,000. It’s the latest improvement that leverages technology to return money to individuals quickly and efficiently through I-Cash.

“Making life a little bit better and a little bit easier for people is the driving force behind all of our programs,” Frerichs said. “It simply makes a lot of sense and is the right thing to do.”

The Enhanced Money Match Program leverages data already collected by the state and crossmatches it with the treasurer’s [unclaimed property database](#). When a matching name and mailing address is identified and confirmed, the unclaimed property owner will receive a letter from the Treasurer’s Office that describes the amount and source of the money.

After one additional security step is concluded, a check simply is issued to the owner. All they have to do is watch for it in the mail.

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The latest round of Enhanced Money Match letters started hitting mailboxes over the weekend to an estimated 73,000 individuals. Checks could be issued in November before Thanksgiving. The total to be returned is \$28.8 million.

“We will be putting money in people’s pockets ahead of the holiday shopping season,” Frerichs said. “This money might mean more presents under the tree for some. For others, it will help with making rent or provide a cushion for unexpected expenses.”

The first round of Money Match in August has returned nearly \$45 million to almost 62,000 people so far.

Enhanced Money Match focuses on simple claims: Cash owed to a single person. Not included is cash owned by multiple parties, including a joint holding of a parent and minor child, as well as shares of stocks and bonds, escrow accounts, and the contents of bank safe deposit boxes. That part does not change, but the limit is raised to \$5,000 from \$2,000.

Enhanced Money Match is part of the office’s Unclaimed Property program, also known as I-Cash. It is one of the state’s oldest consumer protection initiatives. In Illinois, the state treasurer is tasked with safeguarding unclaimed property, such as the contents of overlooked safe deposit boxes, unpaid life insurance benefits, forgotten bank accounts and unused rebate cards. Illinois holds more than \$5 billion in unclaimed property. **The state treasurer is legally required to return unclaimed property to its owners or heirs, no matter how long it takes.**

To see if you have unclaimed property, check the online database at www.illinoistreasurer.gov/ICASH

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 \$55 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 \$1.8 billion since Frerichs was elected.

For more news about the State Treasurer’s Office, please follow Treasurer Frerichs on X (formerly Twitter) at [@ILTreasurer](https://twitter.com/ILTreasurer), Threads [@iltreasurer@threads.net](https://www.threads.net/@iltreasurer), Instagram at [ILTreasurer](https://www.instagram.com/ILTreasurer), [Linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iltreasurer) and on Facebook at [Invested in You – Treasurer Michael Frerichs](https://www.facebook.com/InvestedInYou-TreasurerMichaelFrerichs).

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