**New Jobless Claims Trend Lower**

States reported that 793,000 U.S. workers filed for new unemployment benefits during the week ending Feb. 6, a decrease of 19,000 from the previous week's upwardly revised level. The total number of workers continuing to claim unemployment benefits fell to 4.5 million. About 20 million people are receiving some type of unemployment aid.

First-time weekly unemployment claims have generally trended down in recent weeks, tracking a decline in COVID-19 cases since a holiday spike. Meanwhile, extended unemployment programs are slated to expire in mid-March unless Congress passes another round of stimulus.

**Other federal public policy and related news**

House Speaker expects new COVID relief legislation to pass and be signed into law before unemployment programs expire.

Durbin and Duckworth reintroduce bill to make Springfield Race Riot site a National Monument.


Durbin, Duckworth to Biden: Do not fire top Chicago federal prosecutor John Lausch.

CDC says fully vaccinated people can skip COVID quarantines.

Pfizer expects to cut COVID vaccine production time by close to 50%.

**State public policy and related news**

Illinois House adopts new rules including 10 year term limits for the speaker and minority leader.

Governor proposing no spending increases, no tax increases in next budget.

State to expand vaccine eligibility to individuals with underlying conditions.

Illinois reopens ACA Marketplace to allow residents to purchase health insurance coverage.
Local public policy and related news

Springfield City Council amends, passes development agreement with park district.

Ald. Doris Turner sworn in as State Senator, submits resignation to Springfield Mayor.

CWLP’s Small Business Rate Relief rebate program continues.

Information on additional CWLP bill assistance.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce provides updated COVID-19 Funding and Informational Resources.

Bids and RFPs

City of Springfield


Sangamon County is seeking applications for expiring and vacant positions on various boards and commissions.