



The DoIT Digest

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This Week:

- **Mobile Enabled Unemployment Site Showcases Collaboration**
- **Agriculture Website Accommodates Hemp Legislation**
- **Governor Pritzker Shares His Vision for DoIT**



Mobile Enabled Unemployment Site Showcases Collaboration

A tool to provide short-term assistance to those between careers, the [Unemployment Certification Site](#), can now be accessed from a smart phone using any browser. As another option for claim filing and benefit processing, the site is an example of the efforts being made by agencies working together to benefit the residents of Illinois. The Departments of Employment Security (IDES) and Innovation & Technology (DoIT) worked alongside the Illinois Student Assistance

Commission (ISAC) to make this option a reality. IDES endeavors to provide the support and resources people need when bridging the gap between unemployment and employment, and mobility is nearly essential in today's culture. Teleserve at 312-338-4337 and www.ides.illinois.gov will remain viable options for claimants, as well.

Agriculture Website Accommodates Hemp Legislation

The DoIT team at Department of Agriculture (DOA) worked long hours within a very short period of time to develop a website that accommodates Illinois' new industrial hemp legislation. The site accepts applications from growers and processors pursuing the hemp industry. Link to the [DOA website](#) for more on the rules, regulations and details surrounding the new industry in our state.

Hemp, not to be confused with marijuana, is used to make cannabinoid (CBD) oil, textiles, rope, building materials and has been used as a food supplement. Banned in the U.S. since 1937 with the Marijuana Tax Act, hemp was legalized in the 2018 US farm bill. The new site has received 619 grower applications and 166 processor applications, issued 383 grower licenses and 87 processor licenses. Over 15,000 acres of Illinois farmland have been approved for growing, with nearly 10,000 acres of land already licensed. Link to more on our state's new industry as written by the [SJR](#) and the [Chicago Tribune](#).



Governor Pritzker Shares His Vision for DoIT

DoIT Secretary Ron Guerrier recently sat down with Governor Pritzker to discuss his vision for innovation and technology in Illinois. The conversation addressed a variety of topics including the Governor's mission for DoIT, using innovation to solve challenges for our state, capitalizing on data analytics to benefit residents, encouraging STEM education in Illinois and the importance of broadband expansion across the state. Watch the [full video](#) for Governor Pritzker's thoughts on DoIT's role in his administration to improve how we serve Illinois residents and why he feels, **"the best is yet to come"** for IT at the State of Illinois.

DoIT FYIs and Reminders

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Link to the [Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) for safety tips.

May is also Older Americans Month. Link to the [Illinois Department on Aging](#) website for the many resources available to support the elderly and their families in this state.

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 27th and State Offices will be closed.

