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### Apply Now for Senior Community Center Grants

By Rep Joe Emrick

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) is now accepting applications for \$2 million in new competitive grant funding opportunities for Pennsylvania's Senior Community Centers (SCCs)

The grants are for projects aimed at increasing participation and programming, attracting a new generation of older adults, and enabling centers to provide a safe and healthy environment for local seniors.

All applications and required documentation must be submitted electronically by 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13. To learn more about the grant program and how to apply, click here [https://links.pahousenews.com/q/9GF22cK1fs0Xhr2PcLdVncd\\_roOhskdvG6nZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4g-y6JvyhUeq2VLRavQvfOGJPwpiA](https://links.pahousenews.com/q/9GF22cK1fs0Xhr2PcLdVncd_roOhskdvG6nZcOJYnZ0aW1lc0ByY24uY29tw4g-y6JvyhUeq2VLRavQvfOGJPwpiA)

### DHS Warns of Potential EBT Cards Scam

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) is informing Pennsylvanians of a potential text message scam targeting individuals who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The text claims the user's EBT card has been deactivated and directs the user to call a number to reactivate it. This is a scam. DHS will never text an individual to say that an EBT card has been deactivated.

Please report any texts or calls about DHS benefits that seem suspicious by calling the DHS fraud tip line at 1-844-DHS-TIPS (1-844-347-8477)..

### New Law Aims to Boost Early Literacy

Recognizing reading as the foundation of education success, I am pleased to report legislation I supported in the House to boost early literacy has been signed into law.

Statistics show half of Pennsylvania's fourth graders are reading below their grade level. In fact, results of the Future Ready PA Index, released earlier this week, show a decrease from 54.5% to 53.9% proficiency in English Language Arts. Proficiency rates in math and science increased slightly.

Since childhood reading difficulties can produce long-term effects and limit our children's chances at success, it is important we are proactive in advancing child literacy and intervening with students who may need additional help.

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