



Welcome!

Networking time--exchange business cards with at least 3 people!

September 25, 2019

Chicago Jobs Council

License Suspension Advocacy Background



- 2014: CJC hears about license suspension as major barrier
- 2015: Meetings with Growing Home and North Lawndale Employment Network help us understand the scale of the problem

NLEN Driver's License Survey

DANIEL J. ROSSI
NORTH LAWNSDALE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

License Suspension Advocacy Background



- 2016: Transit Table starts
- 2017: Transit Table members introduce first version of License to Work Act
- 2018: Survey and report: [Living in Suspension](#)
- 2018: License to Work passes Senate

The cover of the report "Living in Suspension: Consequences of Driver's License Suspension Policies" by the Chicago Jobs Council, dated February 2018. The cover features a photograph of a car with a parking ticket on the windshield. The title "Living in Suspension" is in white text on a dark blue background, with the subtitle "Consequences of Driver's License Suspension Policies" below it. The Chicago Jobs Council logo is in the bottom right corner of the cover.

In Brief

80% of Illinoisans drive to work. Half of survey respondents lost a job because they lost their license. This hurts them, their families, and their employers.

When driver's licenses are suspended for failure to pay parking tickets and other non-driving violations, individuals, employers, and communities suffer.

Without a license, there's no way out of debt. Without money to pay off debt, there's no way to get a license. This traps people in poverty.

72% of survey respondents with suspensions owe over \$500 to get their license back. A third owe over \$3,000.

Illinois has no statute of limitations on parking tickets, and payment plans often require unreasonable down payments and schedules. For many, bankruptcy is the only way out.

Local governments have other collection tools without the catastrophic consequences of license suspension.

February 2018
Chicago Jobs Council

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License Suspension Advocacy Background



- 2018: Fines, fees, license suspension gained attention from City Clerk and mayoral candidates. Clerk convenes Fines, Fees & Access Collaborative
- 2019: Mayor and Clerk introduce city-level reforms, endorse License to Work Act

City Slides





Where we are now

- **Chicago** ordinance passed.
 - Implementation
 - Improvements, identify next steps
- **Illinois** statewide law still needs to change.
 - License to Work Act

Visual by Chicago Jobs Council, updated 9/24/19

Assumption:
Veto Session License to Work passage.

Parking & Compliance Suspension Process Map. Chicago and State.

Gap:
No new suspensions from Chicago.

Current suspensions remain: individuals must still get on payment plan and pay for reinstatement, but payment plans will be more accessible.

No SoS authority to rescind suspensions until July 1.

Currently suspended individuals can: 1) pay a reinstatement fee to SoS and get their license back, or 2) wait for July 1 to get their suspension rescinded.

July 1 2020
L2W Effective

Suspensions
rescinded, no new
suspensions

November:
Ordinance Effective

Status quo: licenses
get suspended

City stops suspension requests, makes payment plans more accessible.

SoS rescinds suspensions for free.

Reinstate: Normal process for getting a license back. Requires reinstatement fee paid to SoS.
Rescind: SoS clears the suspension from the record without payment of fee.



What's Next

- **Reactions**
 - Who will this help?
- **Feedback**
 - What can still be improved?
- **Discussion**
 - How might you and your organization be involved? At Transit Table? Share information? Provide implementation feedback?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming FFTI Trainings



October 16: Strengths-Based Coaching

October 22: Intro to Financial Coaching

October 23, 25: Career Foundations

Register: cjc.net/frontline-focus