

Letter to the Editor
For.Immediate.Publication

Subject: Urgent Concerns Over Late Single Audit and Potential Funding Risks

Dear Editor,

As members of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, it is within our fiduciary roles and responsibilities that we write to express our deep and ongoing concern regarding the continued delays in the completion of the County's Single Audits. This annual audit which is the responsibility of the County Auditor, is not only a federal requirement—it is a critical safeguard that ensures transparency and accountability for the public funds we administer at the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, which includes millions of dollars in state and federal grants.

Timely submission of the Single Audit is a condition for receiving and maintaining funding across a wide range of programs that support our region's most vulnerable residents. These include early childhood education (Head Start), workforce development, utility assistance (LIHEAP), housing assistance, and community services to mention just a few—programs upon which thousands in our county rely each day.

Any delays in the completion of Fiscal Year 2024 Single Audit poses serious risks. If the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit is not completed when it is due barring any grace periods, existing grants may be frozen and new applications as well as modifications to grants may be denied. The Regional Planning Commission would be unable to draw-down funds (both state and federal pass-through grants) to reimburse agency costs for payroll and accounts payable. These are conditions which have been temporarily imposed on the Regional Planning Commission in previous years when Champaign County was delinquent in its completion of the Single Audit. These delays in the completion of the Single Audit, directly threaten our ability to serve the public and could lead to devastating consequences for the individuals and families who depend on these vital services.

Since the RPC Commissioners are entrusted with the fiduciary oversight of the RPC, we certainly cannot afford to have critical services and projects interrupted at any given time nor do we want to jeopardize any future grant funding because of any audit delinquencies which are beyond the control of the RPC. We urge the County Auditor to act with the urgency this situation demands to meet the timelines established by the External Auditor to complete the FY 2024 Single Audit on or prior to September 30, 2025.

Sincerely,
Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Commissioners

County Executive Steve Summers, Chair
Mayor Sam Hall, Vice Chair
Mayor DeShawn Wolf Williams
Mayor Deb Frank Feinen
Mayor Tami Fruhling-Voges
Mary Alice Wu
Jennifer Locke
Jeff Wilson
Christopher Walton
Patrick Brown
Katina Wilcher