

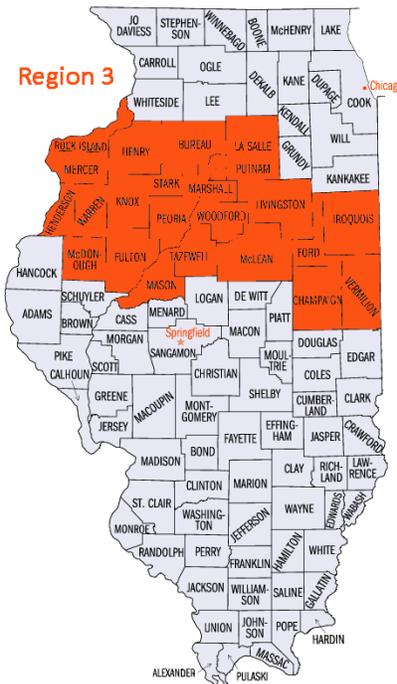


Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services

# Region 3

# Transition Resource Packet

(Bureau, Champaign, Ford, Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Knox, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, McLean, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell, Vermillion, Warren, Woodford)



Designed in collaboration with DHS/DRS and the McLean County Transition Planning Council

# Introduction (May, 2011)

The purpose of this manual is to assist families of young adults with developmental disabilities with the transition from the school system and services for children to the world of work and adult services.

Transition Services are a coordinated set of activities for students as part of the IEP, designed to promote movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, related services, independent living, or community participation. In Illinois, transition planning becomes a part of the IEP process for students at age 14-1/2. The sooner you begin to plan for the transition to employment and adult services, the better.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a powerful law, and transition planning is a process addressed by IDEA. You and your child have rights within the special education system. Once the transition to adult services is complete, you will find that your child's rights are different and much less comprehensive. This is because special education is an entitlement. Special education students are entitled to special education services.

Adult services are based on eligibility and availability of funding. If you are eligible and if funding is available, services can be accessed. Many services and supports readily available in special education are not available in the arena of adult services. Good transition planning is critical to a successful transition to adult services. Use the special education mandate to help build a successful life for your young adult!

When your child exits the special education system, many of the same advocacy skills you learned in special education will be needed; but the rules and laws are dramatically different in the adult service system.

In the adult developmental disabilities system, Medicaid is the key to services. To be clear, Medicaid pays for adult services. As you prepare for the adult system here in Illinois, you will still have to read the law, consider carefully any professional recommendations, become knowledgeable of Medicaid rules, and develop a meaningful Individual Service Plan (also known as an ISP) that meets the needs of your adult child. It will also be critical to know the important rules governing the public benefits for which your adult child is eligible.

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in The Region 3 Resource Packet is general in nature and may not apply to all individuals. It is not designed to be a substitute for medical decisions, legal advice, future planning or financial guidance from qualified professionals serving individuals with disabilities and their families. Families, consumers and guardians are advised to seek guidance from appropriate professionals at all times regarding individual situations. We recognize that each individual has unique gifts and challenges and therefore, will need an individualized process for transition. Families, consumers and guardians are advised to seek guidance from appropriate professionals at all times regarding individual situations.

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# SUGGESTED SCHOOL TO WORK CHECKLIST

## AGE 14

- ✓ Note to parent: If your child demonstrates a Developmental Disability or related condition in the form of Cerebral Palsy, Autism or Epilepsy, contact your PAS agent to complete/update the PUNS (Priority of Urgency of Need for Service).
- ✓ Identify how you learn (learning style) and what accommodations you need to learn best. (Do you learn best by seeing or hearing information or by hands-on activities?)
- ✓ Identify your strengths and weaknesses in the area of learning.
- ✓ Explore career interests and skills and what classes you need to take for those interests.
- ✓ Complete a career interest inventory which will give you careers that match your interests and abilities (this is usually a computer program found in the guidance counselor's office).
- ✓ Attend your transition IEP (Individual Educational Plan) meeting and be ready to answer these questions:
  1. Would you like to go to college or tech school after high school?
  2. What would you like to study if you go on to college or tech school?
  3. If you don't want to go on to school, what do you plan to do after high school?"
  4. Where will you live after high school?
  5. What do you like to do for fun when you are not in school?
- ✓ Be able to explain your disability or health condition and what accommodations you may need.

## AGE 15

- ✓ Note to parent: If your child demonstrates a Developmental Disability or related condition in the form of Cerebral Palsy, Autism or Epilepsy, contact your PAS agent to complete/update the PUNS (Priority of Urgency of Need for Service).
- ✓ Investigate assistive technology tools that can increase community involvement and employment opportunities.
- ✓ Begin to learn to use public transportation options.
- ✓ Work on money management skills.
- ✓ Gain the ability to communicate personal information on paper or verbally.
- ✓ Learn to manage your health care.
- ✓ Attend your transition IEP meeting and be ready to answer these questions:
  - What do you want to do when you leave high school?
  - What classes can help you with what you want to do?
  - Would you rather work than go on to further education?
  - Where do you want to work? Do you have the skills it will take?
  - Are there classes you can take now to help you with your future job choice?
  - What options are available to gain job experiences and build skills?
  - Where will you live after high school?
  - What do you like to do for fun when you are not in school?

## TWO OR THREE YEARS BEFORE LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL

- ✓ Note to parent: If your child demonstrates a Developmental Disability or related condition in the form of Cerebral Palsy, Autism or Epilepsy, contact your PAS agent to complete/update the PUNS (Priority of Urgency of Need for Service).
- ✓ Take classes that match your career interests.
- ✓ Continue to manage your health care.
- ✓ Locate your DRS (Division of Rehabilitation Services) counselor by talking to your guidance counselor or case manager at the school.
- ✓ Gather information about college programs or tech programs that interest you.
- ✓ Determine if there are financial programs available if needed to assist you in living independently.

- ✓ Explore and visit colleges or tech programs of your choice.
- ✓ Learn and practice interpersonal and social skills for different settings.
- ✓ Continue to use public transportation.
- ✓ If you need personal assistant services, learn to direct and manage these services independently, if appropriate.
- ✓ Gain work experiences through STEP (Secondary Transition Experience Program) and/or vocational educational programs at the school.
- ✓ Practice independent living skills, such as shopping, managing money, cooking.
- ✓ Identify community support services, such as One-Stop centers or CILs (Centers for Independent Living).
- ✓ Attend your transition IEP meeting.

## **ONE YEAR BEFORE LEAVING HIGH SCHOOL**

- ✓ Note to parent: If your child demonstrates a Developmental Disability or related condition in the form of Cerebral Palsy, Autism or Epilepsy, contact your PAS agent to complete/update the PUNS (Priority of Urgency of Need for Service).
- ✓ Decide if you are going to attend a college or tech program after high school.
- ✓ If you are going to attend a college or tech program, meet with your guidance counselor to learn how to get linked to the program of your choice.
- ✓ Apply for financial aid (DRS may be able to assist you with this).
- ✓ Meet with the college or tech program's recruiter to identify accommodations and financial support needed.
- ✓ If you desire employment, work with a DRS counselor to identify a job and obtain employment with supports, if needed.
- ✓ Identify independent living resources and begin budgeting.
- ✓ Develop interview skills by practicing effective communication.
- ✓ Begin a resume with work and/or volunteer experiences.
- ✓ Attend your final transition IEP meeting and make sure these questions have been addressed:
  - Are you planning to go to college or a tech program? If so, what will you be studying and do you need any supports? Who will be responsible for the supports?
  - What kind of career/job do you want? Do you desire this right after high school? Do you need any supports? Who will be responsible for the supports?
  - Do you want to live independently after high school? Where do you want to live and how will it be paid for? Do you need any supports? Who will be responsible for the supports?
  - What do you like to do for fun? Do you need any supports? Who will be responsible for these supports?

# DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

## Divisions

- Alcoholism & Substance Abuse
- Community Health & Prevention
- **Developmental Disabilities**
- Human Capital Development
- **Mental Health**
- **Rehabilitation Services**
- Administration

### Division of Developmental Disabilities Mission Statement

The Division of Developmental Disabilities in Illinois will provide quality, outcome-based, person-centered services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The system of services and supports in Illinois will enhance opportunities for individuals to make real choices and receive appropriate, accessible, prompt, efficient, and life-spanning services that are strongly monitored to ensure individual progress, quality of life and safety.

Lilia Teninty, Director

319 E. Madison, Suite 4N

Springfield, IL 62701

Phone: (217) 524-7065

Fax: (217) 557-6856

### Division of Mental Health Mission Statement

The primary mental health mission of the Office of Mental Health is to help maximize community supports and develop skills for persons with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance.

**Vision** Our vision is excellent mental health care and treatment with compassion and respect for every person who turns to the public mental health system for help. Goals for Comprehensive Community Networks for Mental Health Services:

- Foster the continual development of a comprehensive public mental health system of care.
- Improve the appropriateness and effectiveness of clinical interventions to match the changing needs of clients.
- Develop appropriate tools and structures to manage resources and care.
- Promote integration of service systems in order to provide a comprehensive array of mental health and support services.
- Enhance staff competence through the development of skills and knowledge in leadership, management and clinical intervention.
- Increase data-based decision-making in a continuous quality improvement environment.
- Enhance and expand the involvement of consumers in the review, planning, evaluation and delivery of mental health services.
- Expand the knowledge required for effective statewide service system planning through innovative projects and activities within networks.

## Mental Health Services

A range of services are available, depending on a person's needs. The Division offers a continuum of services from intensive in-patient hospitalization to outpatient care, backed by supportive housing and employment programs throughout Illinois. Its forensic services are designed for the care and treatment of people referred through the court system. Specialized programs for children and adolescents are also provided. Services are recovery oriented, community focused, and attuned to the culture of the persons receiving care.

## Division of Rehabilitation Services Mission Statement

DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities.

**Our Vision** Improving the independence of our customers is our only reason for existing. We realize that the skills and abilities of our front-line staff are the keys to our success. Embracing, listening to and collaborating with our community partners will sustain our success.

DRS will be a customer-driven organization, with all major decisions based on the needs of our customers. Our staff will be informed and valued, pursuing lifelong learning and striving to improve their professional skills. We will create an environment where customers and staff work in partnership, where customers enjoy working with staff, and staff looks forward to coming to work. Finally, we envision an agency where customers feel confident that their goals will be reached.

### Goals

#### Independence

- **Goal:** Provide services that will enable DRS customers to achieve the highest level of independence
- **Key indicators:** The number of persons moved out of nursing homes, the number of persons prevented from nursing home placement, the number of persons successfully completing independent living training and the number of persons receiving services through independent living centers.

#### Productivity

- **Goal:** Achieve a high level of productivity by efficiently serving eligible customers and helping them attain successful outcomes
- **Key indicators:** The number of persons employed in competitive jobs, the number of students entering employment after leaving high school, and a composite index that measures the productivity of VR counselors.

#### Job Quality

- **Goal:** Increase the quality of jobs obtained by VR program customers
- **Key indicators:** The average hourly wage earned and average hours worked per week by customers who become employed through the VR program, as well as the percentage of those workers who receive medical insurance from their employers.

#### Service Quality

- **Goal:** Continually improve the quality of services provided by DRS in all program areas

- **Key indicators:** A quality assurance index, the percentage of VR cases meeting RSA timeliness requirements, and the percentage of HSP cases with timely redeterminations.

### **Customer and Staff Experience**

- **Goal:** Create a work environment that results in a positive experience for customers and staff.
- **Key indicators:** Survey measures of customer, employer and provider satisfaction, as well as a staff morale survey.

### **Our Organization**

DRS include four major bureaus: Bureau of Field Services, Bureau of Blind Services, Bureau of Home Services, and Bureau of Disability Determination Services.

- **Bureau of Field Services** assists individuals with disabilities in preparing for, obtaining and maintaining quality competitive employment. Services include evaluation, guidance and counseling, education, training, physical and mental restoration, assistive devices, job development, job placement, and post-employment services.
- **Bureau of Blind Services** helps adults who are blind or visually impaired rediscover their independence and achieve their employment, education, training, and independent living goals. Services include: specialized vocational rehabilitation services; a short-term residential program for adults who are newly blind or visually impaired; independent living services for older individuals who are blind, and the Illinois Business Enterprise Program for the Blind.
- **Bureau of Home Services** provides a wide range of services to individuals with the most significant disabilities to enable them to remain in their homes and live as independently as possible. Services also include specialized services for people with HIV/AIDS or brain injuries.
- **Bureau of Disability Determination Services** determines the eligibility of people to receive benefits under Social Security's disability programs, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## **Additional Program Highlights**

### **Home Services**

We provide services to people with the most significant disabilities so they can remain in their homes and live as independently as possible. Our customers are empowered to live self-directed lives, to be actively involved in their communities, and to retain control over the services they receive.

### **Educational Services**

DRS operate three residential schools for children with disabilities:

- Illinois School for the Deaf (Jacksonville)
- Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (Jacksonville)
- Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Roosevelt (Chicago)

We offer information and transition training to parents of children with disabilities and professionals through our NEXT STEPS program. Our staff works closely with high school students with disabilities, empowering them to successfully transition from high school to post-secondary education and employment.

## **Specialized Services**

Our specialized services are designed for:

- Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired. We empower adults who are blind or visually impaired to rediscover their independence and freedom. Our customers find and maintain employment and achieve their education, training, and independent living goals. The Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood in Chicago also offers a 12-week residential vocational and independent skills training program.
- Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. We help people who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, or deaf/blind find employment, attend education and training programs, and learn about other community resources.
- Persons with disabilities who are Hispanic/Latino. Our bilingual staff assists Hispanic/Latino people with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment, applying for DHS/DRS programs, and connecting with community services.

## **Independent Living Services**

We empower people with disabilities to make informed choices by funding Centers for Independent Living (CILs) throughout Illinois. These CILs offer advocacy, peer counseling, independent living skills training, and information & referral.

## **Disability Determination Services**

We determine the eligibility of people to receive benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

## **Client Assistance Program**

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) helps people with disabilities that have questions or problems with DRS services. For more information, call 1-800-641-3929 (Voice/TTY).

## **Information and Referral Services**

Our staff shares information about programs and services available through DHS/DRS and other state agencies. We also connect individuals and their families with services they need in the community.

You can find the closest office using the DHS online office locator at: [www.dhs.state.il.us/officelocator](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/officelocator) or by calling toll free: 1-877-761-9780 (Voice) or 1-866-264-2149 (TTY) or 1-866-588-0401 (VP)

# Region 3: DRS Offices and Service Providers

*DRS Offices and Services Providers work in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices and to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities.*

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**Bloomington DRS Office**

207 S Prospect Rd  
Bloomington, IL 61704

Phone: (309) 662-1347  
TTY: (888) 261-8539  
Fax: (309) 662-7219

**Champaign DRS Office**

1307 N Mattis Ave  
Champaign, IL 61821

Phone: (217) 278-3500  
TTY: (888) 472-0940  
Fax: (217) 278-3508

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**Danville DRS Office**

407 N Franklin St  
Danville, IL 61832

Phone: (217) 446-0230  
TTY: (888) 472-0936  
Fax: (217) 446-1489

**Galesburg DRS Office**

256 S Soangetaha Rd  
Galesburg, IL 61401

Phone: (309) 343-2193  
TTY: (888) 460-5116  
Fax: (309) 343-0199

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**LaSalle DRS Office**

905 2nd St  
La Salle, IL 61301

Phone: (815) 224-1314  
TTY: (888) 472-0960  
Fax: (815) 224-1346

**Macomb DRS Office**

1026 E Jackson St  
Macomb, IL 61455

Phone: (309) 833-4573  
TTY: (888) 261-2867  
Fax: (309) 833-5953

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**Pekin DRS Office**

2970 Court St  
Pekin, IL 61554

Phone: (309) 353-5996  
TTY: (888) 340-1008  
Fax: (309) 353-2032

**Peoria DRS Office**

2301 NE Adams St  
Peoria, IL 61603

Phone: (309) 686-6000  
TTY: (888) 261-7918  
Fax: (309) 686-8742

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**Rock Island DRS Office**

4711 44th St  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: (309) 786-6468  
TTY: (888) 261-7919  
Fax: (309) 786-1919

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## REGION 3: TRANSITION OFFICES

*Our staff works closely with high school students with disabilities, empowering them to successfully transition from high school to post-secondary education and employment.*

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**BLACK HAWK AREA SPECIAL  
EDUCATION DISTRICT**

4670 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
East Moline, IL 61244  
(309) 796-2500

**GALESBURG FIELD OFFICE**

256 S. Soangetaha Road, Suite 107  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
(309) 343-2193

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**BLAINE-SUMMER COMPLEX**

6301 N. University Avenue  
Peoria, IL 61605  
(309) 672-6856

**LASALLE FIELD OFFICE**

905 Second Street  
Lasalle, IL 61301  
(815) 224-1314

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**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
BLOOMINGTON**

905 N. Main Street  
Normal, Illinois 61761  
(309) 888-5120

**MACOMB FIELD OFFICE**

1026 E. Jackson Street  
Macomb, IL 61455  
(309) 833-4573

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**CAP-DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH**

5407 N. University  
Peoria, IL 61614  
(309) 693-5228

**PEKIN FIELD OFFICE**

2970 Court St. Sunset Plaza  
Pekin, IL 61554  
(309) 353-5996

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**CHAMPAIGN FIELD OFFICE**

1207 S. Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 278-3500

**PEORIA FIELD OFFICE**

2301 NE Adams, Suite C  
Peoria, IL 61603  
(309) 686-6000

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**CHAMPAIGN U OF I FIELD OFFICE**

1207 S. Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 333-4620

**ROCK ISLAND FIELD OFFICE**

4711 44<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 3  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 786-6468

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**DANVILLE FIELD OFFICE**

407 N. Franklin, Suite A  
Danville, IL 61832  
(217) 446-0230

**TAZEWELL-MASON COUNTIES SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

300 Cedar Street  
Pekin, IL 61554  
(309) 347-3532

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# SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

## What is Supplemental Security Income?

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources.

SSI benefits also are payable to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits.

## Visit our website

Our website, [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) is a valuable resource for information about all of Social Security's programs. At our website you also can:

- Apply for certain kinds of benefits;
- Find the address of your local Social Security;
- Request a replacement Medicare card or a Social Security Statement;
- Ask for a letter to confirm your benefit amount; and
- Find copies of our publications.

## Call our toll-free number

In addition to using our website, you can call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213**. We can answer specific questions from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. We can provide information by automated phone service 25 hours a day. (You can use our automated response system to tell us a new address or request a replacement Medicare card.) If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number. **1-800-325-0778**.

We treat all calls confidentially. We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some telephone calls.

## APPLY ONLINE FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS

### Advantages

- You can start your disability claim immediately. There is no need to wait for an appointment;
- You can apply from the convenience of your own home or on any computer; and
- You can avoid trips to a Social Security office, saving you time and money.

### Follow these 4 easy steps to apply online

1. Review the Adult Disability Checklist for details about what you will need before starting the online process.
2. Fill out the online Disability Benefit Application to provide us with information regarding eligibility for payment.
3. Fill out the online Adult Disability Report to provide us with medical and work history.
4. Fill out, sign and mail or take the Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration to your local Social Security Office.

## IF YOU ALREADY RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO ONLINE:

- Get a replacement Medicare card
- Request a proof of income letter  
Get a letter that verifies your Social Security benefit information
- Block online and automated telephone access to your personal information
- Select or change the way you receive information from Social Security if you are blind or visually impaired

## **Online Topics of interest to SSI recipients:**

- [What you must report to us](#)
- [Employment support for people with disabilities](#)
- [Work incentives for people with disabilities](#)
- [When your medical condition is reviewed](#)
- [Food stamps and other nutrition programs](#)
- [Other SSI topics](#)
- *What You Need To Know When You Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)* (Publication No. 05-11011)
- [2011 schedule of payments](#)

## **THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU GET SSI BECAUSE YOU ARE DISABLED**

### **Reviewing your medical condition**

All people receiving SSI because they are disabled must have their medical conditions reviewed from time to time. Your SSI will continue unless there is strong proof that your condition has improved medically and that you are able to return to work.

### **Frequency of reviews**

How often your medical condition is reviewed depends on how severe it is and the likelihood it will improve. Your award notice tells you when you can expect your first review.

### **What happens during a review?**

We will send you a letter telling you that we are conducting a review. Soon after that, someone from your local Social Security office will contact you to explain the review process and your appeal rights. The social Security representative will ask you to provide information about your medical treatment and any work that you may have done.

If anyone comes to your home to talk about your SSI, ask for identification. Anyone who is from Social Security will be glad to show you proper identification.

### **A special note for people with Medicare**

Medicare is our country's basic health insurance program for people age 65 or older and many people with disabilities. You should not confuse Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid is a health care program for people with low income and limited resources. It is usually run by state welfare or social services agencies. Some people qualify for one or the other, while some people qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid.

If you get Medicare and have low income and few resources, your state may pay your Medicare premiums and, in some cases, other Medicare expenses such as deductibles and coinsurance. Only your state can decide if you qualify. To find out if you do, contact your state or local welfare office or Medicaid agency. You can get more information from the publications, Medicare Savings Programs. To get a copy, call the Medicare toll-free number **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-663-4227)**, or visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) on the internet and click "Publications".

### **A special note for people who get SSI because they are blind**

You can ask us for special handling of the letters we send you about changes in your SSI. We have two ways to give you these special letters. We can either send your letters by certified mail or send them by regular mail and telephone you. We will call and read your letter to you within five workdays after mailing it if you choose this option.

## **HOW AND WHEN TO REPORT CHANGES**

You can report changes by calling us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. If you are deaf or hard of hearing you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. When you call, please have your Social Security number handy. You also can report changes by mail or in person. If you send us a letter, be sure it shows:

- The name of the person for whom you are reporting the change;
- The Social Security number of the person who gets SSI;
- The change being reported;
- The date the change happened; and
- Your signature, address and phone number.

You must report a change within 10 days after the month it happens. If you do not report a change or if you make a false statement and get money that you are not due, Social Security will make you pay back the money. It also can result in a fine, sanction or imprisonment.

## **WORK INCENTIVE PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **What is the purpose of this service?**

We help individuals who receive SSI or SSDI and are interested in getting a job understand how working will affect their benefits.

### **Who can receive these services?**

Anyone who gets Social Security disability benefits (SSI or SSDI) and wants to work can receive free benefits planning services.

### **What services are offered?**

Our staff can:

- Explain how all of your benefits will be affected if you go to work;
- Give you a written report that show how earnings from your job will change your benefits;
- Tell you about other community services that can help you;
- Be available to answer any questions you have about your benefits, even after you go to work;
- Provide ongoing benefits management, which can include a new analysis if you get a raise; and
- Make a referral to help you resolve any legal barriers related to employment, such as employer accommodations that will help you do your job.

### **How to apply?**

For more information about the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program or to apply for services, call 1-800-807-6962 (Voice) or 1-866-444-8013 (TTY).

You can also write to:

Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
JRTC  
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 5-300  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

# Illinois Medicaid Program

## <http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/>

### Illinois Medicaid Program

In Illinois, there are two State departments that works together to provide Illinois residents with medical benefits. The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) administer the Medicaid program and Department of Human Services (DHS) assists by taking applications for medical benefits.

Illinois HFS provides several different healthcare programs for residents. These medical assistance programs are known as Medicaid, HFS Medical Benefits, Family Care, All Kids, and Moms & Babies.

Medicaid is a federal and state health insurance program that benefits low-income individuals and families that can't afford the cost of health care. Medicaid provides coverage for low-income seniors, parents, children, and people with disabilities.

**Eligibility for children is based on the child's status, not the parent's.** Once a child turns 18 the parent's income no longer applies. Also, if someone else's child lives with you, the child may be eligible even if you are not because your income and resources will not count for the child.

In general, you should apply for Medicaid if your income is low and you match one of the descriptions of the Eligibility Groups. (Even if you are not sure whether you qualify, if you or someone in your family needs health care, you should apply for Medicaid and have a qualified caseworker in your state evaluate your situation.)

### Applying for Illinois Medicaid

You can apply in person, by mail, fax, or even online for some of the programs.

To apply in person, you need to go to your local DHS Family Community Resource Center (FCRC). A caseworker will ask you questions and enter your answers into a computer. When you are finished, your caseworker will print out a form that you sign. That is your Medicaid application.

You can also pick up a form at the FCRC, fill it out at home and mail or fax it back to the office. You can also download a copy from the computer at [www.health.illinois.gov](http://www.health.illinois.gov) and return it to your local DHS Family Community Resource Center.

After you apply, DHS or HFS will contact you within 45 days to let you know if you are eligible. If you applied because you have a disability, you will be notified within 60 days.

Children under the age of 19 may be able to get Medicaid benefits while the application is being processed. If you are an adult, and HFS does not notify you of your eligibility within the time limit, you might qualify for temporary medical benefits. Make sure that you save copies of any medical bills you paid after your time limit. HFS or DHS will send you a letter to let you know if you can be repaid.

*If your Medicaid application is denied, you can appeal the decision and request a fair hearing meeting. You can get the appeal form and information from your local Family Community Resource Center.*

If your Medicaid application is approved, your Medicaid benefits usually start during the month you applied. In some cases, you may qualify for Medicaid benefits up to three months before them month you applied. If you incurred any medical expenses during those three months, notify your caseworker.

# PRIORITIZATION OF URGENCY OF NEED FOR SERVICES (PUNS)

## **THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ADULT SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED.**

Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) is a database of Illinois children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities to include the following:

- Full scale IQ below 70
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Seizure Disorder
- Down syndrome, etc.

The Illinois **PUNS** is a waiting list of individuals with developmental delays that have unmet needs. These individuals are looking for supports or services within the next 5 years. It focuses on what an individual is receiving currently, what supports they would like or need and how soon they are looking for these supports. **Individuals can be added to the waiting list starting at 3 years old, again if supports are needed within the next 5 years.**

### **What services are available?**

The IDHS Division of Developmental Disabilities provides person-first services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

### **Possible Services Include:**

- In-home supports to help you live more independently.
- Respite Care to provide temporary relief to your caregiver.
- Training Programs to teach you life and work skills.
- Job Coaches to help you succeed in the workplace.
- Residential Living arrangements to provide you with the security and care you need.
- Adaptive Equipment to make you more independent.
- Other Supports to improve your quality of life.

### **What is the process?**

Based on the information you provide during your interview, the Coordination agency will complete a "Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services" (PUNS) form, and categorize your need for services known as the **PUNS3** Criteria/Reasons for need:

- **Emergency Need**: (in-home, day supports or out of home)-These are supports or services that are *needed immediately*. This pertains to someone who has lost a caregiver, became homeless, in a setting where there is suspicion of abuse or neglect, at risk for incarceration, inappropriately placed, person has been "abandoned", in-home supports needed due to disability of a parent, terminally ill or parent hospitalization. The case worker can assist in determining if a person would fit into what the state would consider a crisis.
- **Critical Need** :( in-home, day supports or out of home)-These are supports or services that are needed within one year. Supports needed for an individual to remain at home, graduated from high school and need adult supports, aging/ill caregiver, family crisis, alternative living arrangements need to be pursued (i.e. aging out of a child placement) or the person would like to live in a new setting in the *next year*.
- **Planning for Need**:(in-home, day supports or out of home)-These are supports or services that are more than one year away, but less than 5 years away, or the care giver is older than 60 years. If a person wishes to move to a new area in Illinois or a

new setting in the future, to move back home with parents, retirement or losing supports from another agency 1 to 5 years down the road.

**How a PUNS is completed:**

The family/guardian or individual calls their local Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Agency to complete the Intake process. This includes providing information such as the individual's social security number, Medicaid (if applicable), date of birth, diagnostic information, primary care giver information, etc. **Note:** All information in the PUNS form is **confidential**. Inclusion in the database does not assume eligibility for services or guarantee the receipt of services.

After initial information is obtained, releases are sent for signatures and information is requested. Documentation needed would include any psychological evaluations with IQ testing, the IEP, Social Development Study and other assessment tools from a psychologist, psychiatrist or physician proving the developmental delay.

Once this information is received back, the guardian/individual is mailed the PUNS to complete and sign, along with a cover letter explaining the form. The letter will include the name of the Service Coordinator that has been assigned to the individual's case and their contact information.

After the PUNS is completed, the guardian/individual is asked to call their Service Coordinator to provide additional information (i.e. demographics- mother's maiden name, age of onset, place of birth and other identifying information). At any time, the case worker can be called to assist in completing the PUNS or answer any questions.

The guardian/individual is then asked to mail the form back to PAS Agency and the information is then entered on to the State of Illinois PUNS waiting list. The individual/guardian will receive a letter from the State notifying them that their name has been placed on the waiting list.

**Updates to the waiting list must be completed annually with the Service Coordinator, or if needed, the PUNS can be updated sooner.** The individual will receive a letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS)/Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) informing them the annual update will be needed soon. An individual will remain on the waiting list until their name is drawn from the PUNS and the state invites them to apply for supports/services funded by the Medicaid Waiver programs.

**Names are drawn based upon length of time on the waiting list, urgency of need, caregiver information, randomness, etc...** If an individual's name is drawn, they will be sent a letter from DHS/DDD and the PAS Agency will also be informed (after which, further information will be provided to the family from the PAS Agency on the next eligibility screening process, assessments, appeals if needed, finding a provider and obtaining funding).

Provided on pages 18- are portions of the PUNS Application to help families prepare for completing the PUNS Application.

**Illinois PUNS  
Illinois Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services  
INDIVIDUAL DATA**

**Date Form Completed and Signed By All Parties (e.g., 9/09/2002):**

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Name:        First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_**

**Reason for PUNS or PUNS Update (Check one reason only)**

**New**

**Annual Update**

**Change of category (Emergency, Planning or Critical)**

**Change of service needs (more or less) - Unchanged category (Emergency, Planning or Critical)**

**Person is fully served or is not requesting any supports within the next five (5) years**

**Moved to another state, close PUNS**

**Person withdraws, close PUNS**

**Deceased, close PUNS**

**Other, supports still needed**

**Other, close PUNS**

**For the following items indicate the reason for need by checking all that apply.**

**Emergency Need** (Person needs **in-home or day** supports immediately)

\_\_\_\_ 1. Individual needs immediate support to stay in their own home/family home (short term - 90 days or less); e.g., hospitalization of care giver or temporary illness of an individual living in their own home.

\_\_\_\_ 2. Individual needs immediate support to stay in their own home/family home or maintain their employment situation (long term); e.g., the person can no longer live alone due to health or behavioral issues; or the person's health or behavior has deteriorated significantly, and the family needs immediate enhanced supports.

\_\_\_\_ 3. Care giver needs immediate support to keep their family member at home (short term -90 days or less); e.g., family member recuperating from illness and needs short term enhanced supports.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Care giver needs immediate support to keep their family member at home (long term); e.g., care giver is permanently disabled or is terminally ill and needs long term enhanced supports immediately to keep their family member at home.

**Emergency Need** (Person needs **out-of-home** supports immediately)

\_\_\_\_ 1. Care giver is unable or unwilling to continue providing care (e.g., person has been abandoned).

\_\_\_\_ 2. Death of the care giver with no other supports available.

- \_\_\_3. Person has been committed by the court or is at risk of incarceration.
- \_\_\_4. Person is living in a setting where there is suspicion of abuse or neglect.
- \_\_\_5. Person is in an exceedingly expensive or inappropriate placement and immediately needs a new place to live (for example, an acute care hospital, a mental health placement, a homeless shelter, etc.).
- \_\_\_6. Other crisis (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Critical Need (Person needs support within one year)**

- \_\_\_1. Individual or care giver will need support within the next year in order for the individual to continue living in their current situation.
- \_\_\_2. Person has a care giver (age 60+) and will need supports within the next year.
- \_\_\_3. Person has an ill care giver who will be unable to continue providing care within the next year.
- \_\_\_4. Person has behavior(s) that warrant additional supports to live in their own home or family home.
- \_\_\_5. Individual personal care needs cannot be met by current care givers or the person's health has deteriorated.
- \_\_\_6. There has been a death or other family crisis, requiring additional supports.
- \_\_\_7. Person has a care giver who would be unable to work if services are not provided.
- \_\_\_8. Person or care giver need an alternative living arrangement.
- \_\_\_9. Person has graduated or left school in the past 10 years, or will be graduating in the next 3 years.
- \_\_\_10. Person is living in an inappropriate place, awaiting a proper place (can manage for the short term; e.g., persons aging out of children's residential services).
- \_\_\_11. Person moved from another state where they were receiving residential, day and/or in-home supports.
- \_\_\_12. The state has plans to assist the person in moving within the next year (from a state-operated or private Intermediate Care Facility for People with Developmental Disabilities, nursing home or state hospital).
- \_\_\_13. Person is losing eligibility for Department of Children and Family Services supports in the next year.
- \_\_\_14. Person is losing eligibility for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment supports in the next year.
- \_\_\_15. Person is losing eligibility for Intermediate Care Facility for People with Developmental Disabilities supports in the next year.
- \_\_\_16. Person is losing eligibility for Medically Fragile/Technology Dependent Children's Waiver supports in the next year.

- \_\_\_\_17. Person is residing in an out-of-home residential setting and is losing funding from The public school system.
- \_\_\_\_18. Person is losing eligibility for Individual Care Grants supports through the mental health system in the next year.
- \_\_\_\_19. Person is leaving jail, prison or other criminal justice setting in the next year.
- \_\_\_\_20. Person wants to leave current setting within the next year.
- \_\_\_\_21. Person needs services within the next year for some other reason.  
(Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Planning for Need**

(Person’s need for service is more than a year away but less than 5 years away, or the care giver is older than 60 years)

- \_\_\_\_1. Person is not currently in need of services, but will need service if something happens to the care giver.
- \_\_\_\_2. Person lives in a large setting, and person/family has expressed a desire to move (or the state plans to move the person).
- \_\_\_\_3. Person is dissatisfied with current residential services and wishes to move to a different residential setting.
- \_\_\_\_4. Person wishes to move to a different geographic location in Illinois.
- \_\_\_\_5. Person currently lives in out-of-home residential setting and wishes to live in own home.
- \_\_\_\_6. Person currently lives in out-of-home residential setting and wishes to return to parent’s home and parents concur.
- \_\_\_\_7. Person is receiving supports for vocational or other structured activities and wants and needs increased supports to retire.
- \_\_\_\_8. Person or care giver needs increased supports.
- \_\_\_\_9. Person is losing eligibility for Department of Children and Family Services supports within 1-5 years.
- \_\_\_\_10. Person is losing eligibility for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment support within 1-5 years.
- \_\_\_\_11. Person is losing eligibility for Technology Dependent Children’s Waiver support within 1-5 years.
- \_\_\_\_12. Person is losing eligibility for Individual Care Grants supports through the mental health system within 1-5 years.
- \_\_\_\_13. Person is residing in an out-of-home residential setting and is losing funding from the public school system within 1-5 years.
- \_\_\_\_14. Other (Explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

### Existing Supports and Services

Check the supports that are currently in place specifying whether the supports are funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities or are Other Supports (Other Supports include Education, Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment, Generic, etc.).

<b>Individual Supports</b>	<b>DD Funded</b>	<b>Other Supports</b>
Respite Supports (24 hour)		
Respite Supports (<24 hours)		
Behavioral supports (includes behavioral intervention, therapy and counseling)		
Physical Therapy		
Occupational Therapy		
Speech Therapy		
Education		
Assistive Technology		
Homemaker/Chore Services		
Adaptations to Home or Vehicle		
Personal Support under a Home-Based Support Program, Which Could Be Funded By Developmental Disabilities, Division of Rehabilitation Services or Department on Aging (can include habilitation, personal care, respite, retirement supports, budgeting, etc.)		
Medical Equipment/Supplies		
Nursing Services in the Home, Provided Intermittently		
Other Individual Supports		

<b>Transportation</b>	<b>DD Funded</b>	<b>Other Supports</b>
Transportation (include trip/mileage reimbursement)		
Other Transportation Service		

<b>Vocational or Other Structured Activities</b>	<b>DD Funded</b>	<b>Other Supports</b>
Senior Adult Day Services		
Developmental Training		
"Regular Work"/Sheltered Employment		
<b>Vocational or Other Structured Activities (cont)</b>	<b>DD Funded</b>	<b>Other Supports</b>
Supported Employment		
Vocational and Educational Programs Funded By the Division of Rehabilitation Services		
Other Day Supports (e.g. volunteering, community experience)		

<b>Residential Supports</b>	<b>DD Funded</b>	<b>Other Supports</b>
Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA)/Family		
Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA)/Intermittent		
Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA)/Host Family		
Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA)/24 Hour		
Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD) 16 or Fewer People		
Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Developmental		

Disabilities (ICF/DD) 17 or More People		
Skilled Nursing Facility/Pediatrics (SNF/PED)		
State Operated Developmental Center (SODC)		
State Operated Mental Health Hospital (SOMHH)		
Supported Living Arrangement		
Community Living Facility		
Shelter Care/Board Home		
Nursing Home		
Assisted Living Facility		
Children's Residential Services		
Child Care Institutions (including Residential Schools)		
Children's Foster Care		
Other Residential Support (including homeless shelters_____)		

**Supports Needed**

For the following items indicate if new or additional support is needed by placing a checkmark in the last column. **Leave blank if the support is not needed.**

**Individual Supports (If this section is applicable, check all that apply)**

<b>Individual Supports</b>	
Personal Support (includes habilitation, personal care and intermittent respite services)	
Respite Supports (24 hours or greater)	
Behavioral Supports (includes behavioral intervention, therapy and counseling)	
Physical Therapy	
Occupational Therapy	
Speech Therapy	
Assistive Technology	
Adaptations to Home or Vehicle	
Nursing Services in the Home, Provided Intermittently	
Other Individual Supports	

**Transportation (If this section is applicable, check all that apply)**

<b>Transportation</b>	
Transportation (include trip/mileage reimbursement)	
Other Transportation Service	

**Vocational or Other Structured Activities (If this section is applicable, check all that apply)**

<b>Vocational or Other Structured Activities</b>	
Support to work at home (e.g., self-employment or earning at home)	
Support to work in the community	
Support to engage in work/activities in a disability setting	
Attendance at activity center for seniors	

**Residential Supports (If this section is applicable, check the one that applies)**

<b>Residential Supports</b>	
Out-of-home residential services with less than 24-hour supports	
Out-of-home residential services with 24-hour supports	

## REGION 3: PAS AGENCIES

*There is no funding available for individuals to access a vocational setting once a student graduates from special education unless they are enrolled on PUNS and wait their turn for selection. Families are encouraged to contact their local PAS Agency to enroll their child in the PUNS data base.*

*Possible services include: In-home supports (either family home or own apartment) to help you live more independently. Respite care to provide temporary relief to your caregiver. Training Programs to teach you life and work skills. Job coaches to help you succeed in the workplace. Residential living arrangements (group homes) ranging from four beds to eight beds. Adaptive equipment is available to make you more independent.*

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**CENTRAL ILLINOIS SERVICE ACCESS, INC (CISA)**

101 Madigan Drive  
Lincoln, Illinois 62656  
(217) 732-4731

Christian, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean,  
Menard, Peoria, Sangamon, Tazewell, and  
Woodford

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**ACCESS SERVICES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

7399 Forest Hills Road  
Loves Park, Illinois 61111  
Phone: 815-282-8824  
Fax: 815-282-8835  
www.accessni.com

Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Dekalb, Jo  
Daviess, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle,  
Putman, Stephenson, Witeside, Winnebago

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**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

1776 E. Washington Street POB 17760  
Urbana, Illinois 61803  
Phone: 217-328-3313  
Fax: 217-328-2426

Champaign, Ford, Iroquois

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**CSO of ROCK ISLAND & MERCER COUNTY**

1834 18<sup>TH</sup> Avenue  
East Moline, Illinois 61244  
Phone: 309-278-0022  
Fax: 309-278-0024

Mercer, Rock Island

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**LIVINGSTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

PO Box 504  
Pontiac, Illinois 61764-0504  
Phone: 815-844-7708  
Fax: 815-844-7712

Livingston

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**PRAIRIE LAND SERVICE COORDINATION**

4847 US Route 36 East  
Decatur, Illinois 62521  
Phone: 217-864-0494  
Toll Free: 800-866-8779  
Fax: 217-864-6873

Clark, Coles, Cumberland, DeWitt,  
Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Moultrie, Piatt,  
Shelby, and Vermillion

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**WESTERN ILLINOIS SERVICE COORDINATION**

509 Lafayette Street, Suite 203  
Macomb, Illinois 61455  
Phone: 309-833-1621  
Fax: 309-837-1730

Fulton, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough,  
Schuyler, Stark, Warren

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If you are outside of these Counties, feel free to call any PAS Agency and they can direct you to the appropriate PAS Agency.

# DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN (DSCC)

*DSCC's mission focuses on public service, education and research as a basis to provide, promote and coordinate family-centered, community-based, culturally competent care for eligible children with special health care needs in Illinois.* The programs and services provided by DSCC are described below. We hope you find this information helpful and informative. Please use our Contact Us page to share your suggestions or to request further information.

The Core Program is the major focus of DSCC and offers care coordination and cost-supported diagnosis and treatment for children with chronic health impairments determined eligible for program support. DSCC supports non-investigational treatment recommended by physician specialists, such as therapy, medications, specialized equipment, and supplies. Application forms are available on the Core Program page of our website.

The Home Care Program offers coordination and support for in-home medical care of technology-dependent children who would otherwise have to remain in a hospital or skilled nursing facility. The Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) operates this waiver program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). Program application forms and Home Care Provider forms are both available on the Home Care Program page of our website.

The Children's Habilitation Clinic, formerly known as the Center for Handicapped Children, was renamed in August 1999 to reflect a focus on rehabilitative management for children with disabilities. The clinic is now located on the west campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago, within the Children and Adolescent Section of the Out-Patient Center. The new office location allows greater collaboration with other specialists and primary care providers. The Clinic provides comprehensive diagnostic services to children with complex disabling conditions and provides ongoing rehabilitation and developmental management to those children to age 21. There are approximately 1600 patient visits completed annually.

**The Supplemental Security Income - Disabled Children's Program** has been administered by DSCC since 1978 to provide rehabilitative services to children under 16 years of age who are eligible for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. DSCC provides information about and referral to community resources, including referrals to Early Intervention or preschool programs when appropriate, and DSCC Core services as described above.

The SSI program is a nationwide Federal assistance program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) that guarantees a minimum level of income for aged, blind, or disabled individuals. For more information about the SSI program for children with disabilities, visit the federal government's Social Security Administration web site on [SSI Benefits for Children with Disabilities](#).

## **Administrative Rules**

DSCC is governed by state statute and legislated by Administrative Rules. These Rules define the programs the agency administers and outline the eligibility criteria for the Core Program and services provided to children in the Supplemental Security Income - Disabled Childrens Program.

**More Information**

DSCC has served Illinois Children for more than 60 years - you can view a [timeline](#) of the agency's history in PDF. This timeline highlights both federal initiatives and Illinois initiatives implemented by DSCC.

A web-based [slide-show](#) is also available to provide an overview of the programs and services administered by DSCC.

Every state and the District of Columbia has a Title V Program for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) that is funded, in part, through the Federal Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

**DSCC Central Office**

2 locations:

**Central Administrative Office**

Telephone: 217-558-2350

TTY: 217-785-4728

FAX: 217-558-0773

Postal Address:

3135 Old Jacksonville Road  
Springfield, IL 62704-6488

**Chicago Administrative Office**

Telephone 312-996-6380

FAX 312-413-0367

Postal address:

1919 W. Taylor St. (m/c 618)  
8th Floor, Room 800  
Chicago, IL 60612-3772

# GUARDIANSHIP AND LEGAL ISSUES

## GUARDIANSHIP AND ADVOCACY COMMISSION THE OFFICE OF STATE GUARDIAN

The Office of State Guardian advocates for the rights of over 5,300 disabled adults in Illinois. By law, the Office of State Guardian serves as guardian only when no other person is suitable and willing to serve. With nine regional offices, the State Guardian is active in virtually every county in Illinois. In addition to serving as guardian, the State Guardian offers guidance and advice to persons requesting such assistance. The Office of State Guardian encourages maximum self-reliance and independence. Where possible, alternatives to guardianship should be pursued.

### GUARDIANSHIP FACTS

Illinois has one of the most unique and progressive guardianship laws in the United States. Previously, disabled persons were termed "incompetent" and "conservators" were appointed by Probate Court to care for the disabled person's estate and finances. In 1979, the Illinois Probate Act was amended to provide statutory protection for disabled persons. Entirely new forms of guardianship were established. Most importantly, new procedures for the appointment of guardians and for the supervision of disabled persons and their estates were created.

Guardianship is needed when a person is unable to make and communicate responsible decisions regarding his personal care or finances due to a mental, physical or developmental disability. Without more, a mental, physical or developmental disability is not sufficient for the appointment of a guardian. The fact that a person is elderly, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or physically disabled does not necessarily indicate a need for guardianship. The extent to which a guardian is allowed to make decisions for a ward is determined by the court based on a thorough clinical evaluation and report.

Two basic types of guardianship are "person guardianship" and "estate guardianship". A "guardian of the person" is appointed by the court when a disabled individual cannot make or communicate responsible decisions regarding his personal care. This guardian will make decisions about medical treatment, residential placement, social services and other needs. The court appoints a "guardian of the estate" when a disabled person is unable to make or communicate responsible decisions regarding the management of his estate or finances. The guardian will, subject to court supervision, make decisions about the ward's funds and the safeguarding of the ward's income or other assets.

The Illinois Probate Act gives the court the flexibility to tailor guardianship to meet the needs and capabilities of disabled persons. Depending on the decision-making capacity of the disabled person, the court can appoint a limited guardian who is granted the power to make only those decisions about personal care and/or personal finances that the court specifies. The court can also appoint a plenary guardian who generally has the power to make all decisions about personal care and/or finances for the disabled person.

In anticipation of emergencies, the Probate Act provides for specific remedies to temporarily safeguard alleged disabled persons. A temporary guardian may be appointed by the court for the period between the filing of a petition for guardianship and the conclusion of the court hearing where the need for guardianship is decided. Temporary guardianship, which lasts no longer than 60 days, is a means to ensure that an alleged disabled person receives immediate protection. It is intended only as a short term remedy and is utilized only where a demonstrated harm or emergency exists.

For the most part, any person 18 years of age and older who has not been convicted of a serious crime and who is of sound mind can serve as guardian, if the court finds the person suitable. A guardian must be a legal resident of the United States. Public and private not-for-profit agencies also are eligible and encouraged to participate in the guardianship role. Only agencies providing residential services to disabled persons residing in their facilities cannot serve as guardians.

Family members are not automatically named the legal guardian for their disabled relative. In all cases, the court will make a determination as to the need for guardianship and who should serve as guardian. A family member may petition the Judge to be named guardian or the disabled person may express a preference as to his guardian. If the disabled person expresses a preference, the Judge will give consideration to the disabled person. However, the Judge appoints whoever will make the best guardian and act in the best interest of the disabled person, regardless of the party's relation to the disabled.

## **INITIATING THE LEGAL PROCESS**

Guardianship is a court-created responsibility. In order for a guardian to be appointed, a petition must be filed in the court by an "interested person". The petition includes basic information, such as the name, date of birth and address of the person alleged to be in need of guardianship. A report must also be filed which includes a physician's description of the person's physical and mental capacity along with their relevant evaluations which would enable the Judge to determine the kind of guardianship needed.

Guardianship hearings are set within 30 days of a petition being filed with the court. The alleged disabled person, or Respondent, must be served with summons and a copy of the petition. The Respondent may be represented by an attorney, have a jury trial and present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. Where appropriate, the court will appoint an attorney or lay person to serve as the guardian ad litem. The guardian ad litem acts as the "eyes and ears" of the court, and advocates for the best interest of the Respondent. Before the hearing, the guardian ad litem must interview the Respondent, inform him of his rights, and investigate the appropriateness of guardianship. If the alleged disabled person opposes the opinions of the guardian ad litem, or disputes the need for guardianship, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the Respondent.

At the hearing, evidence about the Respondent's health, mental faculties, finances, housing and life style is presented. The guardian ad litem reports to the court as to the condition of the Respondent and may recommend the type of guardianship needed. The court reviews all the information presented, including the physician's report, the testimony of witnesses and the testimony of the guardian ad litem. Finally, the court either enters a limited or plenary guardianship order or finds that no guardianship is warranted.

An appointed guardian is responsible for overseeing a program intended to maximize the ward's self-reliance and independence. A person guardian also may be required to submit an annual report to the court concerning the services provided to the ward and the status of the ward's personal care. Estate guardians must file inventories of the ward's assets and periodic accounting of estate receipts and disbursements. All estate expenditures are subject to court review, and the guardian may be held accountable for estate assets improperly managed.

If a change in guardianship seems indicated at any time, or if the annual report recommends that guardianship be changed or revoked entirely, a petition for modification or termination of guardianship can be filed. Based on this, the Judge may then terminate the guardianship or modify the guardian's duties. A court may also appoint a successor guardian if a guardian is unwilling or unable to perform his duties.

Any party filing a petition for guardianship usually is required to pay fees for filing, sheriff's fees for the service of summons on the Respondent, and attorney's fees. Although it is not required, petitioners are generally represented by attorneys, particularly in contested guardianship cases. In some cases, the petitioner may pay fees for the services of the guardian ad litem or the physician who prepares the medical report. If the alleged disabled persons have funds, these may be used to pay costs and fees.

Guardianship can be costly and complicated. In many cases, alternatives to guardianship can and should be used. Guardianship should be considered a last resort, a mechanism by which a person's legal rights are taken away for a sound and necessary purpose. It should never be used in a retaliatory manner or as a convenience for a health care provider or a family member.

**Our toll Free Intake number is 1-866-274-8023  
(If outside the State of Illinois please dial 1-708-338-7500)**

The Office of State Guardian serves the people of Illinois through seven regional offices. **For intake or to inquire about any of our services, please contact our toll free number at 1-866-274-8023 (If outside the State of Illinois please dial 1-708-338-7500).** If you need to obtain emergency medical consent for an Office of State Guardian ward after regular business hours, please call our toll free on-call number at 1-866-503-9078. Our toll free TTY number is 1-866-333-3362.

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**East Central Regional Office**

2125 South 1st St  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
Fax (217) 278-5588  
(217) 278-5577

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**Egyptian Regional Office**

#7 Cottage Drive  
Anna, IL 62906-1669  
FAX: (618) 833-5219  
(618) 833-4897

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**Metro East Regional Office**

Pine Cottage  
4500 College Avenue  
Alton, IL 62002-5099  
FAX: (618) 474-5517  
(618) 474-5503

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**North Suburban Regional Office**

9511 Harrison Avenue, W 300  
Des Plaines, IL 60016-1565  
FAX: (847) 294-4263  
(847) 294-4264

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**Peoria Regional Office**

5407 North University, Suite 7  
Peoria, IL 61614-4785  
FAX: (309) 693-5050  
(309) 693-5001

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**Rockford Regional Office**

4302 North Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61103-5202  
FAX: (815) 987-7227  
(815) 987-7657

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**West Suburban Regional Office**

P.O. Box 7009  
Hines, IL 60141-7009  
FAX: (708) 338-7505  
(708) 338-7500

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## A Checklist for Special Needs Planning for Your Child

Have you done your special needs planning to ensure your child has a bright future? It is easy to put off, but what could be more important? The reason we plan is to ensure a high quality of life for our child, even after we are gone. Whether your child is age 1 or age 51, you could be gone tomorrow, leaving your child to fend for themselves. Proper planning now arms not only your child with special needs for the future, but also the rest of your family. This is because proper planning includes the needs of your entire family. That is the bonus! You get all of your family financial and legal planning in order.

Here is a simple checklist to get you going no matter what age your child is:

- 1. Organize your financial situation by listing out all your major assets and liabilities.** For most of us this will be bank accounts, insurance policies, pension plans, IRAs, 401ks, mortgages, and credit card accounts. Keep copies of everything in one place.
- 2. Determine what estate planning you have in place.** Do you have at least the basics-wills, powers of attorney for health and property, a special needs trust, and a letter of intent describing your child's situation.
- 3. Think through the major issues facing your child with special needs.** Where will she live, how will she support herself, what health insurance is available, what government benefits does she qualify for, who will be her guardian when you are gone, what will her social needs be, what further schooling might she desire?
- 4. Think through the major issues for the rest of the family.** Do you have a retirement plan in place, do you have kids that need college paid for, how will you pay for family health care, have you considered long term care insurance, are there other major needs?
- 5. Pull it all together.** Now that you have given it proper attention, start developing solutions to address the major gaps in your planning. Put together a financial plan to address retirement, your child's special needs, paying for college and other items you have identified.
- 6. Put the plan in place.** You are not done until you execute your plan. This means seeing an attorney to assist with your estate planning including the special needs trust. It also means putting a financial plan in place to ensure the money is there to address each family member's needs.

Don't put this off! The need is there right now. The sooner you get started, the sooner you will have peace of mind.

**The information in this section was provided by:**

**Stephen A. Newbold, Attorney, Certified Financial Planner  
1503 Dover Rd  
Bloomington, IL 61704**

# EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

An individual with a disability is a person who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- Has a record of such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such impairment.

A qualified employee or applicant with a disability is an individual who, with or without reasonable accommodations, can perform the essential functions of the job in question. Reasonable accommodation may include, but is not limited to:

- Making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.
- Job restructuring, modifying work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position;
- Acquiring or modifying equipment of devices, adjusting or modifying examinations, training materials, or policies, and providing qualified readers or interpreters.

An employer is required to make a reasonable accommodation to the known disability of a qualified applicant or employee if it would not impose an "undue hardship" on the operation of the employer's business. Undue hardship is defined as an action requiring significant difficulty or expense when considered in light of factors such as an employer's size, financial resources, and the nature and structure of its operation.

An employer is not required to lower quality or production standards to make an accommodation; nor is an employer obligated to provide personal use item such as glasses or hearing aids.

## Additional Informational Topics Included in ADA of 1990:

- Definitions
- Discrimination
- Defenses
- Illegal Use of Drugs and Alcohol
- Posting Notices
- Regulations
- Enforcement
- Construction
- State Immunity

**Visit** [www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/ada.cfm](http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/ada.cfm) for complete listing/information on ADA.

# Region 3 Resources

RESOURCES PAGE 1

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## ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE REQUIREMENTS

[www.handilate.com/illinois\\_summary.htm](http://www.handilate.com/illinois_summary.htm)

### Resource Category:

- Accessible Parking Regulations by State
- Title II: State

## ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

- Chicago: (312) 814-6200 (voice)
  - Chicago: (312) 263-1579 (TTY)
  - Springfield (217) 785-5100 (voice)
  - Springfield (217) 785-5125 (TTY)
  - (800) 662-3942 (IL only)
- [www.state.il.us/dhr](http://www.state.il.us/dhr)

### Resource Category:

- Legal
- Title I: Employment
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations
- Title IV: Telecommunications
- Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions
- Enforcement

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## ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

(217) 522-7985 (voice)  
(217) 522-9966 (TTY)  
(800) 852-5110 (voice/TTY – Illinois only)  
(217)522-8067 (fax)

[www.iltech.org](http://www.iltech.org)  
[iatp@iltech.org](mailto:iatp@iltech.org)

### Resource Category:

- Assistive Technology
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations
- Title IV: Telecommunications

---

## COALITION OF CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

300 E. Monroe, Suite 100  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 522-7016 (voice/TTY)  
(217) 522-7024 (Fax)  
E-Mail: [ccdi@ccdionline.org](mailto:ccdi@ccdionline.org)  
<http://www.ccdionline.org/>

### Resource Category:

- Advocacy/Disability Rights

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## ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

[www.ag.state.il.us](http://www.ag.state.il.us)

- Chicago: (312)814-3000 (voice)
- Chicago: (312)814-3374 (TTY)
- Springfield: (217)782-1090 (voice)
- Springfield: (217)785-2771 (TTY)
- Carbondale:(618)529-6400/6401 (voice)
- Carbondale(618) 529-6403 (TTY)

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## DESIGNS FOR CHANGE

(312) 236-7252 (voice)  
(312) 236-7944 (TTY)  
(312)236-7927 (Fax)  
[markse@desgnsforchange.org](mailto:markse@desgnsforchange.org)  
[www.designsforchange.org](http://www.designsforchange.org)

### Resource Category:

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Education
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

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**EQUIP FOR EQUALITY**

- (Northeastern Illinois)  
(312) 341-0022 (voice/TTY)  
(800)537-2632
- (Northwestern Illinois)  
(309) 786-6868 (voice/TTY)
- (Central/Southern Illinois)  
(217) 544-0464 (voice/TTY)  
(800) 758-0464 (voice/TTY)

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

**Resource Category:**

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Legal
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations
- Title IV: Telecommunications
- Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions

**FAMILY MATTERS (ARC COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM)**

2502 South Veterans Drive  
Effingham, Il. 62401  
(217) 347-5428 (voice/TTY)  
(217) 347-5119 (Fax)  
(866) 436-7842 Toll Free (voice/TTY)  
E-Mail: [info@fmptic.org](mailto:info@fmptic.org) or [deinhorn@arc-css.org](mailto:deinhorn@arc-css.org)  
Serving: Statewide except Chicago  
[www.fmptic.org](http://www.fmptic.org)

**Resource Category**

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Education
- Parent Training Center
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

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**FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ON DISABILITIES**

(312) 939-3513 (Voice)  
(312) 939-3519 (TTY)  
(800) 952-4199 (IL only)

[frcdptiil@ameritech.net](mailto:frcdptiil@ameritech.net)  
[www.frcd.org](http://www.frcd.org)

**Resource Category:**

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Education
- Parent Training Center
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

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**OFFICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

(309)662-1347

207 S. Prospect  
Bloomington, IL  
61704

[www.state.il.us/afency/dhs/rsnp.html](http://www.state.il.us/afency/dhs/rsnp.html)

**Resource Category:**

- Education
- Employment

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**ILLINOIS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

(888) 367-4382

[www.ilworkforce.org](http://www.ilworkforce.org)

**Resource Category:**

- Employment
- Title I: Employment

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**ILLINOIS ACCESSIBILITY CODE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

(217) 782-8529

**Resource Category:**

- Accessibility Guidelines, Standards & Tools
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations

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**ILLINOIS CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

(800) 641-3929 (voice/TTY)  
 (217) 782-5374

[www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/capcss.html](http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/capcss.html)

**Resource Category:**

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Legal
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations
- Title IV: Telecommunications
- Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions

**ILLINOIS TRS PAGE**

TRS Telephone Numbers (Service Provider: AT&T)  
 Customer Service #: (800) 682-8706 (voice)  
 (800) 682-8786

(800) 526-0857 (Voice)  
 (800) 526-0844 (TTY)  
 (877) 526-6690 (STS)

[http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/trs\\_illinois.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/dro/trs_illinois.html)

**Resource Category:**

- Relay Services

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**PRAIRIE STATE LEGAL SERVICES**

[www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org)

• **Resource Category:**

- Advocacy/Disability Rights
- Legal
- Title II: State & Local Governments
- Title III: Places of Public Accommodations
- Title IV: Telecommunications
- Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions

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**RECREATION ACCESS ILLINOIS (RAI)**

Launched by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, in cooperation with the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), to have an impact on how people with disabilities look at their health, and how service providers look at the accessibility of their facilities.

(800) 900-8086 (Voice/TTY)

[www.RecreationAccessIllinois.org](http://www.RecreationAccessIllinois.org)

**Resource Category:**

- Recreation/Leisure

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**GREAT LAKES ADA & ACCESSIBLE IT CENTER (MC 728) ROOM 405**

1640 W. Roosevelt Road  
 Chicago, IL  
 60608

(800) 949-4232 (Voice/TTY)  
 (312) 413-1407 (Voice/TTY)  
 (312) 413-1856 (Fax)

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**ILLINOIS AOA PROJECT**

Alan Goldstein  
 c/o Equip for Equality  
 20 N. Michigan, Suite 300  
 Chicago, IL  
 60602-4811

(800) 537-2632 (Voice)  
 (800) 610-2779 (TTY)  
 (312) 341-0295 (Fax)

[www.ada-il.org](http://www.ada-il.org)

**Resource Category:**

- ADA
-

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**Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago**

115 W. Chicago Avenue  
Chicago Il. 60654

Daisy Feidt Director of programs  
[dfeidt@acessliving.org](mailto:dfeidt@acessliving.org)

Serving the City of Chicago

(V) 312-640-2100  
(T) 312-640-2102  
(F) 312-640-2101  
Toll Free 800-613-8549

**Advocates for Access**

4450 N. Prospect Rd., Suite C8  
Peoria Heights, Il. 61616

Melody Reynolds, Executive Director  
[mreynolds@advocatesforaccess.com](mailto:mreynolds@advocatesforaccess.com)  
[www.avodactesforaccess.com](http://www.avodactesforaccess.com)

(V) 309-682-3500  
(TTY) 309-682 3567  
(F) 309-682-3989  
Serving Fulton, Peoria, Tazewell, and  
Woodford Counties

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**DuPage Center for Independent Living**

739 Roosevelt Rd. Building 8, #109  
Glen Ellyn, Il. 60137

Lee Ann Heenan Executive Director  
[ed\\_depagecil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ed_depagecil@sbcglobal.net)

(V) 630-469-2300  
(TTY) 630-469-2492  
(F) 630-469-2606

Serving DuPage County

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**FITE CIL**

1230 Larkin Avenue  
Elgin, Il. 60123  
Marci Savage, Executive Director  
[msavage@fitecil.org](mailto:msavage@fitecil.org)

(V) 847-695-5818  
(T) 847-695-5868  
(F) 847-695-5892

Serving Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties

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**Illinois/Iowa ILC (IIILC)**

3708 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
P.O. Box 6156  
Rock Island, Il 61201

[www.iicil.com](http://www.iicil.com)

Liz Sherwin, Executive Director  
[execdiretor@iicil.com](mailto:execdiretor@iicil.com)

(V/T) 309-793-0090  
(F) 309-793-5198

Serving Henry, Mercer and Rock Island  
Counties in Illinois and Clinton, Muscatine  
and Scott in IA

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**Illinois Valley CIL**

18 Gunia Drive  
LaSalle, Il. 61301

[www.ivcil.com](http://www.ivcil.com)

Donna Joerger, Executive Director  
[ed@ivcil.com](mailto:ed@ivcil.com)

(V/T) 815-224-3126  
(F) 815-224-3576

Toll Free 800-822-3246

Serving Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam  
and Stark Counties

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**IMPACT**

2735 East Broadway  
Alton, IL 62002

Cathy Contarino, Executive Director  
[contrino@impact.org](mailto:contrino@impact.org)

(V) 618-362-1411  
(T) 618-474-5333  
(F) 618-474-5309

Serving Bond, Calhoun, Greene, Jersey,  
Macoupin and Madison Counties

**Jacksonville Area Center for  
Independent Living**

15 Permac Road  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

[www.jacil.org](http://www.jacil.org)

Becky McGinnis, Executive Director  
[becky@jacil.org](mailto:becky@jacil.org)

(V/TTY) 217-245-8371  
(T) 217-245-1991  
(F) 217-245-1872  
Toll Free (V/T) 888-317-3287

Serving Cass, Mason, Morgan and Scott  
Counties

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**Lake County CIL**

377 N. Seymour Ave.  
Mundelien, IL 60060

Kelli Brooks, Executive Director  
[kelli@lccil.org](mailto:kelli@lccil.org)

(V) 847-949-4440  
TTY 847-949-0641  
(F) 847-949-4445

Serving Lake County

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**LIFE Center for Independent Living**

2201 Eastland Drive, Suite #1  
Bloomington, IL 61704

[www.lifecil.org](http://www.lifecil.org)

Gail Kear, Executive Director  
[gail@lifecil.org](mailto:gail@lifecil.org)

Serving Dewitt, Ford, Livingston and McLean  
Counties

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**LINC, Inc.**

#1 Emerald Terrace, Suite 200  
Swansea, IL 62226

[www.lincinc.org](http://www.lincinc.org)

Lynn Jarman, Executive Director  
[ljjarman@lincinc.org](mailto:ljjarman@lincinc.org)

(V/TTY) 618-235-9988  
(F) 618-233-3729

Serving Monroe, Randolph and St. Clair  
Counties

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**Northwestern Illinois CIL (NICIL)**

229 1<sup>st</sup>. Avenue, Suite 2  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

[www.nicil.org](http://www.nicil.org)

Kathy Fischer, Executive Director  
[Kathy@nicil.org](mailto:Kathy@nicil.org)

(V) 815-625-7860  
(T) 815-625-7863  
(F) 815-625-787

Serving Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, and  
Whiteside Counties

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**Opportunities for Access Cil**

4206 Williamson Place, Suite 3  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Mike Egbert, Executive Director  
[spud@ofacil.org](mailto:spud@ofacil.org)

(V) 618-244-9212  
(TTY) 618-244-9575  
(F) 618-244-9310

Serving Clay, Clinton, Edwards, Effingham,  
Fayette, Hamilton, Jasper, Jefferson, Marion,  
Wabash, Washington, Wayne and White  
Counties

**Options Center for Independent Living**

22 Heritage Drive, Suite 107  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
Kathy Petersen, Executive Director  
[Kathy.Petersen@Optionscil.com](mailto:Kathy.Petersen@Optionscil.com)

(V) 815-936-0100  
(T) 815-936-0132  
(F) 815-936-0117

Serving Iroquois and Kankakee Counties

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**Persons Assuming Control of their Environment (PACE)**

1317. E Florida  
Urbana, IL 61801

Nancy McClellan-Hickey, Executive Director  
[nmch@pacecil.org](mailto:nmch@pacecil.org)

(V) 217-344-5433  
(T) 217-344-5024  
(F) 217-344-2414

Serving Champaign, Douglas, Edgar, Piatt,  
and Vermilion Counties

**Progress CIL**

7421 Madison Street  
Forest Park, IL 60130

Horacio Esparza, Executive Director  
[hesparza@progresscil.org](mailto:hesparza@progresscil.org)

(V) 708-209-1500  
(T) 708-209-1826  
(F) 708-209-1735

Serving Suburban Cook County

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**Regional Access & Mobilization Project (RAMP)**

202 Market Street  
Rockford, IL 61107

Julie Bosma, Executive Director  
[jbosma@rampcil.org](mailto:jbosma@rampcil.org)

(V/T) 815-968-7467  
(T) 815-968-2401  
(F) 815-968-7612

Serving Boone, De Kalb, Stephenson and  
Winnebago Counties

**Southern Illinois CIL**

P.O. Box 627, 2135 W. Ramada Lane  
Carbondale, IL 62901

Bonnie Vaughn, Executive Director  
[bvaughn@neondsl.com](mailto:bvaughn@neondsl.com)

(V/T) 618-457-3318  
(F) 618-549-032

Serving Franklin, Jackson, Perry, and  
Williamson Counties

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**Soyland Access to Independent Living (SAIL)**

2449 Federal Drive  
Decatur, Il 62526

Jeri Wooters, Executive Director  
[jwooter@decatur sail.com](mailto:jwooter@decatur sail.com)

(V) 217-876-8888  
(F) 217-876-7245  
Toll Free (V/T) 1-800-358-8080

Serving Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Macon, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties

**Springfield CIL**

330 S. Grand Avenue W.  
Springfield, Il 62704

[scil@scil.org](mailto:scil@scil.org)

Pete Roberts, Executive Director

(V/T) 217-523-2587  
(T) 217-523-6304  
ERP 1-800-447-4221  
(F) 217-523-0427

Serving Christian, Logan, Menard, Montgomery and Sangamon Counties.

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**Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living**

39 North Prairie Street  
Galesburg, Il. 61401

Dale Parsons, Executive Director  
[dalep@stone-hayes.org](mailto:dalep@stone-hayes.org)

(V/T) 309-344-1306  
(F) 309-344-1305  
(T) 309-344-1306  
Toll Free (V/T) 888-347-4245

Serving Henderson, Knox, and Warren Counties

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**West Central Illinois CIL**

300 Maine Street., Ste 146  
P.O. Box 1065  
Quincy, Il 62301

[ciledquincy@adams.net](mailto:ciledquincy@adams.net)

Glenda Farkas, Executive Director  
[wcicil@adams.net](mailto:wcicil@adams.net)

(V) 217-223-0400  
(T) 217-223-0475  
(F) 217-223-0479  
!-800-225-0407

Serving Adams, Brown, Hancock, McDonough, Pike and Schuyler Counties

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**Will-Grundy CIL**

2415 A West Jefferson Street  
Joliet, Il 60435

Pam Heavens, Executive Director  
[pamwgcil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pamwgcil@sbcglobal.net)

(V) 815-729-0162  
(T) 815-729-2085  
(F) 815-729-3697

Serving Grundy and Will Counties

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**Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living**

1 West Old State Capitol Plaza Suite 501  
Springfield, Il 62701

Ann Ford, Executive Director  
[annford@incil.org](mailto:annford@incil.org)

(V/T) 217-525-1308  
1-800-587-1227  
(F) 217-525-1312

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**NICHCY**  
**National Dissemination Center for**  
**Children with Disabilities**

[www.nichcy.org/stateshe/il.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/stateshe/il.htm)

**Resource Category:**

- Laws
  - Resources
  - Research
  - News
  - NICHCY Blog
  - Spanish
- 

Illinois Transition Website <http://www.illinoistranstion.org>

Illinois General Assembly <http://www.ilga.gov>

Illinois State Board of Education <http://www.isbe.state.il.us>

Transition Research Institute <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu>

Life Line Support: Telephone Assistance <http://www.universalservice.org>

The Arc of Illinois <http://www.thearcofil.org>

Yellow Pages for Kids with Disabilities <http://www.yellowpagesforkids.com>

Institute for Community Inclusion <http://www.communityinclusion.org>

State Data Information Files <http://www.statedata.info/>

Family Matters: Parent and Training Information <http://www.fmptic.org>

You can find the closest office using the DHS online office locator at:  
[www.dhs.state.il.us/officelocator](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/officelocator) or by calling toll free: 1-877-761-9780 (Voice) or 1-866-264-2149 (TTY) or 1-866-588-0401 (VP)

REFERENCE POINTS: New Financial Resource for Parents of Children and Youth with Disabilities

"Possibilities: A Financial Resource for Parents of Children with Disabilities" (2011)

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/possibilities/>

First published in 2004 by the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) and PACER, this popular financial planning guide has been revamped into an online format and as well as updated and expanded to include more content relevant to parenting transition-age youth with disabilities. The guide offers tips and information addressing many common financial issues and concerns of families raising children with disabilities from infancy to young adulthood. Topics include organizing financial records, managing money, preparing income taxes, health insurance options, dealing with debt, saving for college, preparing youth for adult employment, and more. Each section includes links to additional resources.