



Value Their Lives...Value The Work

What value does Illinois place on people with I/DD and those that care for them?

Here are the facts about Illinois!

- In Illinois, over 27,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive services from providers like Developmental Services Center. The state contracts for these services that they would otherwise have to provide at a much higher cost.
- Funding for our services that includes direct support staff salaries comes from the Illinois Medicaid program. Illinois spends very little on community developmental disability programs compared to other states, consistently ranking near the bottom in respected national comparisons.
- The Illinois legislature has not increased Medicaid rates for our programs in eight years, even though inflation grew at 14% during that period. Years of insufficient state funding and no rate increases have created a statewide direct support staffing crisis.
- The statewide average wage for DSPs is \$9.35/hour, or \$19,488/year, less than the federal poverty level for a family of three.
- The State of Illinois contracts with thousands of staff that perform the same work as our DSPs. However, these state employees are paid a much more competitive wage - in some cases 40% more!

Why should you care?

- DSPs have the most significant impact on quality, safety, and community participation!
- Failure to address this crisis will result in the closure of homes and people living in larger settings.
- Without DSPs, the system cannot respond to people in critical situations and others waiting.
- Our entire statewide system is in total failure and the future is uncertain.

At DSC we have vacancies every day in our residential direct support positions. This means that our current workforce is being stretched to cover the work of these open positions, as well as cover for typical absences such as illness and scheduled days off.

We are relying on our current staff to work a tremendous amount of overtime to just cover the minimum shifts needed for daily services.

As a result of the staff shortage crisis, DSC has had a new Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) home ready for four people to move in for almost one year, but have been unable to open the home due to the inability to hire and retain staff.

On January 7, 2016 a federal monitor found the State of Illinois non-compliant with the Ligas Consent Decree, a court order that ensures access to community care for individuals with I/DD. The monitor found that community agencies' inability to hire direct support staff resulted in decreased service quality and slowed the development of new placements.

The Governor and the General Assembly must immediately stop ignoring our staffing crisis!

Support House Bill 5931

For more information: <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB5931/2015>

Support Senate Bill 2952

For more information: <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB2952/2015>

#WeAreDSPs #valuetheirlives