



Family Manual Fact Sheet Considering a Move to – or Within - Illinois?

Families that include a child or even an adult with a disability have much to consider when an opportunity to move to another state arises. Whenever possible, it's a good idea to visit the state to which you are planning to move in order to conduct a hands-on "fact-finding mission". Also, remember that you cannot apply for services in a new state until you have established residency there. The resources below may be helpful in researching available services for children, youth, and adults with disabilities in Illinois.

Birth – 3

Most children with developmental delays aged birth to three are served in the Early Intervention System (EI) in Illinois. The point of entry for EI is the local Child & Family Connections Office (CFC). The Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) administers EI in Illinois. If you have a child in this age category with a disability or developmental delay, contact the appropriate CFC to schedule an eligibility evaluation to determine whether your child meets the EI guidelines specific to Illinois. Illinois has its own eligibility guidelines for EI, which are not the same as in other states. To find the CFC in the area in which you are interested, call 217-782-1981 or go to the DHS website at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&OfficeType=4&County=.

Ages 3 – 21

Illinois children and youth aged three through twenty-one are served primarily through local school districts. For information on education and special education in Illinois, see the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) website at www.isbe.net. ISBE provides a resource for families, "Educational Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Special Education in Illinois" which is available on ISBE Special Education website at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Parent-Rights.aspx>

State Report Cards for schools and districts are available at illinoisreportcard.com. This information gives assessment data by school and district. Special Education Profiles

are also available on the ISBE website at webprod.isbe.net/LEAPProfile/SearchCriteria1.aspx. Reports are available by District Name and City Name. If you do not have internet access, you may call ISBE at 1-866-262-6663.

Although this information is helpful, you will also want to speak with special education and education administrators in the communities you are considering. They will be able to answer important questions you may have that aren't reflected in assessment data. A visit to the schools being considered would also be recommended.

Parents weighing this decision report that speaking to other families in the area is often helpful. Check the Illinois Life Span website at www.illinoislifespan.org or call 1-800-588-7002 to get contact information for parent groups that meet near the communities being considered.

Illinois has two federally-funded Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) which provide free special education rights training and information to families:

1. The Family Resource Center on Disabilities serves Chicago and the following 8 counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. <https://frcd.org/> or 312-939-3513
2. Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center serves the rest of the state: <http://www.fmptic.org/> or 1-866-436-7842

Waiver Services for Children and Adults

Illinois currently offers nine different Medicaid waivers. Children and young adults may be able to participate in six of them. See the Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) waiver page for more information:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/medicalclients/hcbs/Pages/default.aspx>

One waiver is for children who are both medically fragile and technology dependent:

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/tmfc.aspx>

The Children's Support Waiver and Children's Residential Waiver are two Medicaid Waiver programs in Illinois that focus on eligible children with developmental disabilities:

https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/support_cyadd.aspx and

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/cyadd.aspx>

Information about Children's Waivers is also available at www.kidswaivers.org/states/il. To be considered for these services, families must complete a PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) interview for their child and update the information

yearly. When funding becomes available, names are drawn. A completed PUNS form is necessary for Illinois residents of any age with developmental disabilities who are in need of services. Any individual or family that includes an individual with disabilities in need of services is encouraged to complete a PUNS interview.

Services for adults with developmental disabilities in Illinois are provided primarily through the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) through Medicaid Waiver funding. To be considered for these services, qualifying individuals must complete a PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) interview and keep it updated yearly. Once again, PUNS is the first step in the process for **all** Illinois Medicaid Waiver programs administered by Illinois DHS/DDD.

There are now two PUNS categories. The two categories are **Seeking Services**, for people who currently need or desire supports, and **Planning for Services**, for people who do not currently want or need supports but may in the future.

PUNS selections are based on a person's cumulative length of time in the Seeking Services Category since the age of 18. *Note: If you are not in the Seeking Services Category and you are currently in need of supports, you must request that your (Independent Service Coordination (ISC) Agency move you to the Seeking Services category.* www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131

Thanks to the ongoing Ligas Consent Decree, the Division of Developmental Disabilities plans that by 2025, a person age 18 or older in the Seeking Service Category will be selected from the PUNS in 60 months or 5 years. This means that by 2025, a person with only a one year gap between the conclusion of an individual's Transition program and their PUNS selection. Time in the Planning for Services category does not count toward a PUNS selection.

PUNS information is gathered and maintained by local Independent Service Coordination (ISC) or Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Agencies for both children and adults in need of services. To find the appropriate ISC contact information, you can go to <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12> –the DHS Office Locator –and choose Developmental Disability Services. You may also call the DHS Help Line at 1-800-843-6154 or Illinois Life Span at the number recorded above.

Medicaid waivers, although funded in part by federal money, also receive state funding and are state administered programs. Therefore, eligibility and services available vary from state to state. Medicaid waivers cannot be transferred between states. Waiting lists exist for some of the Medicaid waivers in Illinois, and new residents - regardless of their waiver status in their former state of residence - may only be eligible to sign up for the waiting list.

Adults who have been in residential placements in another state cannot transfer to a residential placement in Illinois, unless openings exist and they can pay privately.

Many Illinois residents with disabilities receive services provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Some individuals may qualify for vocational, respite, or Personal Assistant Services through DRS. The DHS/DRS Home Services Waiver is open to eligible children and adults who are enrolled in Medicaid. To find out more about eligibility and services provided through DRS, go to www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29727 or call the DHS Help Line at 1-800-843-6154. More information about the services funded through the DRS Home Services Waiver: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29738>

For more information about PUNS and Home and Community-Based Waiver Services in Illinois, please see the website for the Family Support Network of Illinois (FSN) at www.familysupportnetwork.org or call FSN at 708-331-7370.

Federally Funded Benefits

If your family member receives benefits from the Federal government (for example, SSI, SSDI, or Medicare) these benefits will remain the same in all states. You will need to file your change of address in the new state once you move. You can use this form: <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/change-of-address.html>

State Funded Programs

If your family member participates in state programs, or programs that have state-federal matching funds such as Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program (called All Kids in Illinois), Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers or the Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs program (Specialized Care for Children in Illinois), you will have to meet the eligibility criterion in the new state.

Having funding in one state does not guarantee eligibility or funding in another. Residency must be established before you can apply and have eligibility determined for most programs. After you move to Illinois, you must be able to prove your residency here at the time of applying for any programs. Proofs of residency can include an address (not a hotel); driver's license or state ID; utility bills, rental agreement/lease or mortgage.

Here are links to some of the programs mentioned earlier for your reference:

- Illinois Medicaid Waiver Programs: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=52542
- Illinois Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC): www.dscc.uic.edu
- Illinois All Kids:
<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/Pages/default.aspx>
- Illinois Medicaid:
<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/Pages/medicalprograms.aspx>

How Does Illinois Compare with Other States?

- To find comparative data on developmental disability services by State, examine the report titled “The State of the States in Developmental Disabilities”. Longitudinal data on funding and services is available by state within this report. The report is available at <http://www.stateofthestates.org/> You may also call Dr. David Braddock’s office at 303-860-6139
- The [Kids Count Data Center](http://datacenter.kidscount.org/) provides hundreds of measures of child well-being by state and comparatively. <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

If you move to Illinois - What stays the same?

Federal benefit programs will stay the same if your family circumstances do not change - i.e. income, family size.

What changes?

Guardianship is not portable. In other words, if you are moving to Illinois and are the legal guardian of your adult family member with disabilities, you will need to check on the requirements for guardianship in the county to which you are moving. For additional information about guardianship in Illinois, you may contact the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission at www.gac.state.il.us. Links to legal resources are available on the Illinois Life Span website at www.illinoislifefspan.org or call 1-800-588-7002.

State and jointly funded state and federal benefit programs will change from state to state. File new application after moving to see if you qualify in Illinois for:

1. [Early Intervention](#)
2. [Specialized Care for Children](#) (Title V CSHCN program)
3. [Medicaid](#)
4. [All Kids](#) (State Children’s Health Insurance Program)
5. [Medicaid Waivers](#) for children and for adults

What do you need to do?

You will need to file your change of address and/or reapply:

1. File change of address for
 - a) SSI - <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/change-of-address.html>
 - b) SSDI - <https://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/>
 - c) Medicare
 - d) Military Health Insurance: <https://www.military.com/benefits/tricare/us-family-health-plan.html>
2. Reapply once you have moved to Illinois for:
 - a) WIC
 - b) SNAP (Food Stamps)
 - c) Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) SNAP for Eligible Children of Free/Reduced Price School Meals: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=123700>

Pointers for people considering a move within Illinois:

1. If you receive benefits from programs administered by the State of Illinois, you must file your change of address with the Illinois Department of Human Services at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=46873 or by calling the **Change Report Line at 1-800-720-4166**. You can also look up office locations by program.
2. If you are the court-appointed guardian for a person with a disability, please be aware that guardianship does not transfer from county to county. Please contact the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission for more information: www.illinois.gov/sites/gac/Pages/default.aspx or call STATEWIDE GENERAL INFO: 1-866-274-8023 and INFO For Out-of-State Callers: 1-708-338-7500.
3. Contact your Managed Care Organization with your new address (note: Aetna owns IlliniCare plans as of 12/1/20: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/ManagedCare/Pages/default.aspx> You can also call 1-800-226-0768.
4. If you participate in Specialized Care for Children, please contact your DSCC care coordinator for information about transferring to a new DSCC office, or call 800-322-3722.
5. If you participate in a Medicaid Waiver program, please ask your current case manager for information about transferring services to local providers.
6. If you are on the PUNS list, please ask your current contact person at your Independent Service Coordination Program (ISC) for contact information for your new ISC agency.

Does your family have Marketplace insurance under the Affordable Care Act? (also known as ACA or “Obamacare”)

If you move to a new state, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and will have sixty days to enroll in a new plan from the Illinois Marketplace, Get Covered Illinois.

More information about Qualifying Life Events which qualify for a Special Enrollment Period is available here:

<https://getcovered.illinois.gov/en/Pages/StayInformed/LatestNews2.aspx>

To get started with Get Covered Illinois, please call or contact:

<https://getcovered.illinois.gov/> By phone: **(866) 311-1119**. Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information -

The Arc of Illinois Family to Family Health Information Center

www.familyvoicesillinois.org

familytofamily@thearcofil.org

815-464-1832 x1017 (voice)

866-931-1110 (toll free for Illinois families)