

VOR State Coordinator Report 2022 Illinois

In Illinois, there are 27,000 people with developmental delays who depend on state services – 3,800 in ICFs and 22,000 in waiver-funded community-based services. An additional 14,000 are unable to access services at this time.

A strong movement continues to advocate to move clients out of “institutions” to CILAs (groups homes). Guardians of individuals who live in ICFs, including private and state facilities will receive letters and/or phone calls from the state coordinators of service to inform families that they have the right to move their loved one to a CILA or another facility other than an ICF. Families still have the right to have their loved one remain in an ICF.

There are still 92 companies with 14C certificates servicing 10,000 clients. In 2021 Governor Pritzker signed an executive order that would phase out the use of the subminimum wage for vendors receiving state contracts. This does not affect private contracts.

The DSP (direct support professionals) shortage is critical. As of January, the DSP vacancy rate was 27%.

Some good news -

The Illinois budget for FY2023 has approved the following:

An increase of \$18 million dollars for the state operated developmental centers (ICFs).

In the Medicaid Reform Bill there will be an increase, effective 1/23. This means an increase of \$17/hour across the state and \$19.55 for Chicago and collar counties.

In the past two years, since March 202, when the pandemic began, the seven-state operated developmental centers have admitted almost 100 individuals. Most of these individuals came from failed community group homes, or from family homes, and due to the individual’s severe behavior issues their needs were not able to be met in the community placement or family home. The state Department of Human Services continues to admit those individuals whose needs cannot be met in the small community based homes, or the private ICFs.

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