

Legislative Support for One-Time Supplemental Funding Needed in the IDD Community System

November 2022

We are legislators from Appropriations Human Services, the Special Needs Caucus, or those who know it is the state's responsibility to ensure access to services and supports for children and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities who have come together to sign this ***Letter of Support*** for a **supplemental one-time stabilizing investment** of \$56 million in the IDD community system now.

We have heard from They Deserve More coalition (TDM) which represents persons with disabilities and their families, service providers and their representative organizations, including IARF, The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities, The Center for Developmental Disabilities, and The Arc of Illinois, McManus Consulting, Don Moss & Assoc., and support their request for \$56 million utilizing unexpended ARPA funds or GRF funding to help stabilize their workforce and address increased operational costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not intended to be annualized, but to serve as immediate stability resources to support to the IDD community system.

We ask that you consider some alarming statistics that have been shared with us and the Illinois Department of Human Services in recent weeks:

- 25% vacancy rate in Direct Support Professionals;
- 23% vacancy rate in Front-Line Supervisors and Case Managers;
- 28% of providers are unable to accept new individuals into services;
- 14% of providers have closed residential services; and
- 72% of providers have delayed service expansions due to staffing shortages.

We urge our legislative colleagues to stand with us in prioritizing this request. People with disabilities and their families need and deserve quality and consistent support provided by trained staff that are fairly compensated for their work.

The Governor recently announced initiatives to address staffing concerns and shortages at state institutions (SODCs). The staffing issues in community-based services require the same sense of urgency and attention.

We have signed this letter of support to show our Legislative and Executive Leaders and our colleagues that this is a priority funding request—and to reinforce with those receiving supports, their staff, their families and circles of support that individuals with IDD are a priority. This system needs to be stabilized if we are going to protect the estimated 300,000 Illinoisans with IDD, those who are currently receiving support and meet the needs of thousands waiting to receive services.

Respectfully Submitted,

SENATE

Senator Terri Bryant (58th Dist)
Senator Laura Fine (9th Dist)
Senator Dale Fowler (59th Dist)
Senator Ann Gillespie (27th Dist)
Senator Michael Hastings (19th Dist)
Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford (4th Dist)
Senator Meg Loughran Cappel (49th Dist)
Senator Eric Mattson (43rd Dist)
Senator Julie Morrison (29th Dist)
Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas (20th Dist)
Senator Chapin Rose (51st Dist)
Senator Dave Syverson (35th Dist)
Senator Jil Tracy (47th Dist)

HOUSE

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Representative Mark Batinick (97th Dist)
Representative Jonathan Carroll (57th Dist)
Representative Daniel Didech (59th Dist)
Representative Amy Elik (111th Dist)
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Representative Jackie Haas (79th Dist)
Representative Maura Hirschauer (49th Dist)
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Representative Seth Lewis (45th Dist)
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Representative Kathleen Willis (77th Dist)
Representative Janet Yang Rohr (41st Dist)