

# People with Disabilities Deserve More

## SUPPORT SB2026 AND HB3569!

Governor Pritzker's budget proposal for FY24 earmarks **\$211M** to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). **Only \$63.1M of that is NEW money for community agencies** that provide residential and day services to help thousands live safe, full and vibrant lives.

This doesn't cover changes in the job market, yearly minimum wage increases, or inflation.

- Direct support professionals (DSPs) dedicated to caring for people with disabilities are leaving for jobs that pay more to support their families.
- The state-commissioned Guidehouse Rate Study recommends that **DSP wages should be 150% of minimum wage.**
  - This equates to a **\$4 per hour DSP wage increase for FY24.**
  - The Governor's proposal supports only a \$1.50 per hour increase.

## What is the IDD community seeking in FY24?

SB2026 and HB3569 would implement a \$4 per hour DSP wage increase beginning 1/1/24.

**The ask is \$88.5M in addition to the Governor's Introduced Budget.**

## Support SB2026 and HB3569

You didn't create the problem, but you can help solve it for the nearly **300,000** people in Illinois with IDD, their families and the staff who support them. **It's time to get our priorities straight in Illinois.**

# What is the status of the community system of support for people with disabilities?

- It's very fragile
- More than **12,400** people with disabilities remain on the PUNS wait list, not receiving any services.
- The state is moving **123** residents from the Choate state institution to the community system – where will they go?
  - Community agencies are forced to turn away new residents for lack of staff.
  - The state is not complying with the Ligas Court decree which mandates choice for care in community settings.
  - Meanwhile, the state is seeking to cut DSP hours – nearly **3.8 million** of them! That's nearly **1,800** full time staff who would be cut.

## IDD Community System in Crisis

**Fifty-three** community agencies serving people with IDD responded to a June 2022 survey:

**14%** Closed a residential setting in 2022

**72%** Delaying service expansions due to staffing shortages

**2,137** Unfilled positions because of low pay, averaging 40 unfilled positions per agency

**28%** Not accepting new admissions for services

**25%** DSP vacancy rate

## About They Deserve More

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

**They Deserve More** is a statewide coalition of nearly **90** community provider agencies, trade and advocacy organizations, and friends and family of people with disabilities. The coalition was founded in 2017 to ensure that Illinois meets its obligation to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.