

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TRANSITION RESOURCES

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), provides person-first services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) may include:

- Intellectual disabilities that have been formally diagnosed prior to age 18
 - FSIQ of 70 or below with significant adaptive skill deficits
- Related conditions such as Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, or any other condition (other than mental illness) found to be closely related to Intellectual Disability because this condition resulted in impairments of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior, and the condition was manifested prior to the age of 22.
- Individuals with a diagnosis of Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injuries, severe Intellectual Disabilities, etc. may apply at the age of 3 and are strongly encouraged to do so.

***NOTE:** Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis and will require supporting documentation of (evaluations, assessments, medical documentation, etc.)*

Who can enroll in “Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services” (PUNS):

- Children, teens, and adults with a Developmental Disability (DD) who need services and/or supports.

To apply for services through an interview process to determine eligibility of services:

- Contact Southern Illinois Case Coordination Services (SICCS)
 - 1-800-828-7422 or 1-618-532-4300
 - This is the PAS/ISC (Pre-Admission Screening/Independent Service Coordination) for this demographic area.
- Based on information you provide during this interview, the PAS/ISC (SICCS) will complete a PUNS form and will put your need for services into one of these categories:
 - **Emergency** – You need immediate services.
 - **Critical** – You will need services within one year.
 - **Planning** – You will need services within one to five years.

***NOTE:** A completed PUNS form does not mean you are eligible for services and does not guarantee that services will be provided. However, it ensures that the IDHS knows about your need for services.*

What can families expect during the PUNS enrollment process:

- The individual, along with the guardian, caregiver, and family, meets face-to-face with an Independent Service Coordination (ISC) Agent - SICCS.
- The ISC Agent will work with the individual and their families to identify the need for services, explain services, and identify the urgency of need.

Possible services include:

- **In-Home supports** to help you live more independently.
- **Respite care** to provide temporary relief to your caregiver.
- **Training programs** to teach life and work skills.
- **Residential living arrangements** to provide you with the security and care you need.
- **Adaptive equipment** to make you more independent.
- **Other supports** to include your quality of life.

How does the PUNS selection work?

- The selection is an open and fair process using criteria such as length of time on database, urgency of need, and geographic area within the State.

When will an individual be selected?

- PUNS selections are based upon funding availability.

How do people know if they get selected?

- Individuals selected from the PUNS database will receive a letter directly from the Illinois Department of Human Services announcing their selection and inviting them to apply for services by contacting their ISC agency which is SICCS.

***NOTE:** If your address or telephone number changes, contact SICCS immediately to update this information. Your contact information is confirmed annually. If SICCS is unable to contact the applicant, their name will be removed from the database.*

What do families do if a crisis emerges while enrolled in PUNS?

- Families should contact their ISC agency (SICCS) immediately for available options in their area.

For additional information, you may visit: www.dd.illinois.gov or www.dhs.state.il.us.