

# Housing Options

**Explore your options** so you and your family/guardian can choose programs and services that best suit your needs, help meet your transition goals, and allow you to live as independently as possible in the community of your choice.

**You should plan early.** Getting into adult service programs may take months. Accessing adult services will be much different than getting services through the school.

The process will take time, many phone calls, lots of follow-up and appeals. Try not to get discouraged. Don't give up!

**You will need to plan how to fund** your future services, trainings, supports and your living arrangements.

Adult service options and funding sources are much different than child-focused services and funding. Some differences are:

- Government-funded programs for adults are very limited;
- You must meet the program's eligibility guidelines in order to get services;
- There are waiting lists, applications, disability determinations and other processes required.

**Residential Living for People with Disabilities.** Options include a range of settings that enable individuals with disabilities to live with their own families, or in their own homes or apartments with supportive services from community-based supported living service providers.

- **Independent living** - you live on your own.
- **Semi-independent living** - you need minimal levels of help to live and work in the community. Some hire a personal assistant, roommates share responsibilities, and family members may take turns to help out.
- **Community-Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) or Group Homes** - residential options that provide 24-hour care in a variety of settings. Most are home-like settings located in communities where individuals have support staff available as needed, supervision and assistance in the activities of daily living, and access to local stores, libraries, restaurants.
- **Nursing Home or Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF/DD)** - health care facilities for people who need ongoing developmental services and intermittent skilled nursing care.
- **State institutions** - for individuals with the most severe disabilities who require intensive services.

*(Next page provides a list of resources)*



## Find Supported Living Arrangements:

- Find and ask about **unique group arrangements** funded by the residents' families. Such families pool their resources to provide supportive living arrangements in single-family homes for their family members with disabilities who need help with daily living skills.
- **Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives** can help individuals with disabilities live the lives they *want* to live, with the support of family, friends, community and public resources. Together with trained volunteers (PATH guides) and their closest friends and family members, individuals identify concrete goals that are positive and possible. Then the group enrolls themselves and others to carry out the concrete action steps needed to move forward. For more information: <http://www.iambc.org/>
- Contact your area's **Center for Independent Living (CIL)** for a wide array of independent living services. For more information online: <http://www.incil.org/>, or call **1-800-587-1227**.
- **Know your rights for fair housing.** Go online to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/disabilities](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/disabilities).
- **In-Home Support Options.** You may want to apply for one of nine Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs to get services to help you live more independently in your family's home or on your own. For additional information about the HCBS waiver programs: <https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Other Resources:

- **Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois** - supports independent living services across Illinois. For more information, call **1-217-744-7777** (V/TTY) or go online at <http://silcofillinois.org/>.
- The **Housing Assistance** web site contains resources about rental and homeownership assistance, housing accessibility and other programs that help with locating and securing housing for people with disabilities: [https://www.disability.gov/housing/housing\\_assistance](https://www.disability.gov/housing/housing_assistance).
- **Habitat for Humanity** may be able to help you identify accessible and affordable housing. Go online to <http://www.habitat.org/getinv/apply.aspx> to find Habitat services in your local area; use the Habitat [online search tool](#), or call them at **1-800-422-4828**.
- The **Illinois Assistive Technology Program** - promotes availability of assistive technology services such as the **ILoan Program**, which provides loans to buy assistive technology for daily living, self-employment and home-based employment. Call **1-800-852-5110** or go online: <http://www.iltech.org/repository/financialloans>.

**We're here to help.** To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

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