

RESOURCES

- **Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS):**

- Provides state residents with streamlined access to integrated services, especially those who are striving to move from welfare to work and economic independence. IDHS also serves those who face multiple challenges to self-sufficiency.

- Main Website: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=27893

- **Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS):**

- DHS's Division of Rehabilitation Services is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities.

- 100 South Grand Ave. E. Springfield, IL 62794

- Contact at:

- (877) 761-9780 Voice
- (866) 264-2149 TTY
- (312) 957-4881 VP
- Email: DHS.DRS@illinois.gov

- DRS Impact Video: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=67107

- **Division of Developmental Disabilities Independent Service Coordination/Pre-admission Screening Agencies (ISC/PAS)**

- The purpose of PAS is to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state laws, arrange for and conduct assessments, make necessary determinations regarding eligibility for services, educate individuals and their families regarding services, and make referrals and provide linkage to appropriate services.

- ISC/PAS Website: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=68911

- **Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS)**

- PUNS is a database that registers individuals who want or need Developmental Disability Waiver services (e.g., community integrated living arrangements, home-based supports, child group homes) funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Developmental Disabilities.

- Website: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131

- **Chicago Public Schools:**

- Assist parents from CPS community to apply for Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Help with Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) redetermination
- Help families create a Manage My Case online
- Assist with Individualized Education Program (IEP) students
- Rental assistance
- Resources for pantries



- Vaccination assistance
- Help young adults who are going to apply for Adult Medicaid who currently have All Kids. This is separate from our young adults who cannot make their own decisions.
- For Spanish-speaking families, they can ask for Rebecca Campos.
- Main Website: www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/health-and-wellness/
- 42 W. Madison St., Chicago, IL 60602
- Phone: (773) 553-1000
- **National Parent Center on Transition and Employment (PACER):**
 - PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment® provides quality information and resources for families of young adults with disabilities on transition planning, civil rights, work-based learning, career accommodations, higher education, financial aid, and much more! Whether just starting the transition planning process or searching for information on a specific topic, PACER.org/transition is a comprehensive source of information designed to support families varied needs.
 - Contact at (952) 838-9000 or transition@pacer.org
 - Main Website: www.pacer.org/transition/
 - Changing role of parents' video: www.pacer.org/transition/video/player.asp?video=281
- **Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD):**
 - Learn about your rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), make informed decisions about your child's IEP, obtain appropriate services for your child, communicate more effectively with school professionals, come together with other parents who share your concerns and desires to make a difference, learn more about Early Intervention and transition services, affect positive change in your child's school, learn about what he or she needs to lead a productive and independent adult life.
 - Family Resource Center on Disabilities serves the following eight Illinois counties:
 - Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.
 - Contact at (312) 939-3513 or email info@frcd.org.
 - Main Website: <https://frcd.org/>
 - En español: <https://frcd.org/category/recursos-en-espanol/>
 - Dissecting the IEP Part 5 Transition video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ6jTDNrUaw
- **The Arc of Illinois: Statewide Developmental Disability Advocacy and Education:**
 - Advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and community organizations to ensure that people with disabilities can live, work, learn, and play in communities across the state. The Arc offers resources and information, supports families in their individual advocacy efforts and trains and educates people with disabilities, families, and professionals among other things.
 - Main Website: www.thearcofil.org
 - Contact at:
 - (815) 464-1832
 - Family Voices of Illinois; The Arc of Illinois Family to Family Health Information Center
 - 20901 LaGrange Rd., Suite 209, Frankfort, IL 60423
 - Main Website: <http://www.familyvoicesillinois.org>
 - Contact at:
 - (708) 560-6703
 - (866) 931-1110 (toll-free for Illinois families)
 - Email: familytofamily@thearcofil.org

- **Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC):**

- The University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children is a statewide program that provides FREE care coordination for families of children with special healthcare needs. Our care coordination includes helping families plan and prepare for the transition to adulthood. DSCC has 11 regional offices across the state, including in Chicago.
- Transition Toolkit
 - English: <https://dsc.c.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/0520-TRANSITION-TOOLKIT-WEB-1.pdf>
 - Spanish: <https://dsc.c.uic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/0520S-TRANSITION-TOOLKIT-SPANISH-WEB.pdf>
- 3135 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL
- Main Website: <https://dsc.c.uic.edu/>
 - Contact at: (800) 322-3722 (toll-free)
- Connect to Transition Planning Resources With DSCC Videos:
 - English - <https://youtu.be/n69Q2Y1YBGY>
 - Spanish - <https://youtu.be/SKWYI14xAGo>

- **Grupo SALTO:**

- To meet the void that many Latino families experienced, Latino parents of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and Hispanic program staff from the UIC Developmental Disabilities Family Clinics (DDFC) founded Grupo SALTO (Sociedad de Autismo Latina Trabajando con Optimismo) in 2003. Over the years, Grupo SALTO has continued to grow to meet the everchanging needs and interests of families and children with ASD. Grupo SALTO aims to provide support for Latino families who have children with ASD by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate training, education, and services.
- Main Website: <https://gruposalto.org/>
- Contact at:
 - (773) 757-9691
 - Email: groupsalto@groupsalto.org

- **El Valor:**

- A nonprofit organization serving over 4,000 children, adults with disabilities, and their families annually. Our mission is to support children, people with disabilities, and their families to achieve excellence and participate fully in life. Our programs exist to create opportunities that enrich and empower vulnerable populations to become their own advocates and promote a sense of inclusion within a learning community.
- Main Website: <https://elvalor.org/>
- Contact at:
 - Main Office: (312) 666-4511
 - Fax: (312) 666-6677
 - TTY: (312) 666-3361
 - Email: info@elvalor.net

- **Access Living:**

- Access Living is the Center for Independent Living that serves the city of Chicago. This means we are a local, disability consumer-controlled, cross-disability, nonresidential, private nonprofit. As a Center for Independent Living, We believe in dignity, community integration, civil rights, and equal access for all people with disabilities.
- Main website: www.accessliving.org/
- 115 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60654

Division of Specialized Care for Children



- Voice: (312) 640-2100
- Toll Free: (800) 613-8549
- TTY: (312) 640-2102
- Toll Free TTY: (888) 243-7003
- **Equip for Equality (Main/Chicago Office):**
 - Promotes self-advocacy and serves as a legal advocate for people with disabilities and handles individual cases and systems-change litigation to achieve broad-based societal reforms.
 - Independently monitors public and private institutions and programs serving people with disabilities.
 - Serves as a watchdog over the government, business, and not-for-profit sectors.
 - Advocates through public policy and legislative activities to give people greater choices in their lives and ensure their independence and inclusion in all aspects of community living.
 - Empowers people and their families through our disability rights trainings so they can advocate for themselves or others.
 - Serves as the federally mandated Protection & Advocacy System for the state of Illinois
 - 20 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60602
 - (312) 341-0022 or (800) 537-2632 (Voice) or (800) 610-2779 (TTY)
 - Website: www.equipforequality.org/
- **Health & Disability Advocates (HDA):**
 - 205 W. Monroe, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60606
 - (312) 223-9600
 - www.hdadvocates.org
- **Illinois Life Span: Information and Advocacy Network:**
 - Website: www.illinoislifespan.org
 - (800) 588-7002
- **Illinois Department of Human Service Office Locator:**
 - Website: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12
 - Find Family and Community Resource Centers (FCRC) for SNAP, Cash Assistance, Medicaid.
 - Find Independent Service Coordination Agency (ISC) for PUNS List and related resources
- **Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance: Support, Education and Advocacy for Self-Advocates in Illinois:**
 - Website: <http://selfadvocacyalliance.org>
- **Special Needs Alliance: Attorneys trained in future planning for individuals with disabilities:**
 - Website: www.specialneedsalliance.org
- **Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL): Statewide Center for Illinois' 22 Centers for Independent Living:**
 - Website: www.incil.org
 - (217) 525-1312
- **"Think College":**
 - A resource for expanding inclusive higher education opportunities
 - <https://thinkcollege.net>
- **Illinois Statewide Transition Conference:**
 - www.illinoistransitionconference.org/



NOTE: This is not a comprehensive guide