

Developmental disabilities are everywhere.

The statistics are impossible to ignore. Thousands of friends, family members and neighbors in Illinois have a developmental disability.

What is a developmental disability?

The State of Illinois has adopted a restricted definition of developmental disabilities. The definition states “developmental disabilities are manifested during childhood or before the age of 22 and have an IQ of 70 or below.” Developmental disabilities include mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and other specific neurological conditions. Currently:

- There are 200,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in Illinois.
- 1.6 % of all Americans are affected with a developmental disability.
- Illinois ranks 47th nationwide in funding for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Illinois ranks last in inclusive education (disabled and non-disabled students in the same classroom).
- The unemployment rate for people with any type of disability is 70%. There is a 90% unemployment rate for persons with an intellectual or cognitive disability.

How do developmental disabilities affect individuals?

Though it depends on each specific case, individuals learn differently, need special therapies and assistive technology. However with proper supports, all individuals with developmental can become active members of their communities.

Unmet Needs: The Illinois waiting list

The Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Service (PUNS) survey is perhaps the best way to demonstrate the need for care. This waiting list shows the number of developmentally disabled persons with unmet needs in Illinois. Currently more than:

- Approximately 800 adults with developmental disabilities are living with caregivers over the age of 70
- Over 3,500 adults with developmental disabilities are in need of 24-hour residential services
- 1,500 families are in need of 24-hour respite support

For more information on the waiting list, please contact The Arc of Illinois at www.thearcofil.org or call (708) 206-1930.



PUNS: No laughing matter

It's no joke; the Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Service (PUNS) survey can increase funding by showing Illinois government officials the immediate needs of Illinoisans with developmental disabilities.

Who qualifies for PUNS? EVERYONE!

The waiting list is available to persons of all ages with a disability that are anticipating a need for funding in the **next five years.**

Who's on the waiting list and how can I sign up?

There are more than 10,000 Illinoisans with developmentally disabilities on the list. According to demographic information, thousands more are eligible. To join the list, contact The Arc of Illinois.

How can I identify my needs? Contact:
The Arc of Illinois

18207 Dixie Highway, Suite A
Homewood, IL 60430

(708) 206-1930 p (708) 206-1171 f
www.thearcofil.org tony@thearcofil.org