

The Ligas Family Advocate Program (LFA Program)

Family Focused Advocacy: Sharing Options



The Ligas Family Advocate Program is funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services

The LFA Program

- Program Overview
 - Work one-to-one with families and self advocates, those who are currently receiving waiver supports, those who have received Early Notification from DDD regarding upcoming PUNS selection, and PUNS selectees to explore opportunities available within the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD)
 - Explore options focused on personal goals, community inclusion, and independence with needed support services
 - Provide education regarding the PUNS selection process, key choices, and needed resources
 - Ensure a basic understanding of the two programs available to adults with developmental disabilities in Illinois (ICF/DD program and Home and Community Based Waiver Program)
 - Connect to core DD resources

How does a Ligas Family Advocate assist you?

- Provide guidance and accurate information at a critical time in service planning and provision
 - Understanding all of the available services within the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver
- Support the work of the Independent Service Provider, to prepare families and self-advocates for fully informed decision-making once they are selected from the PUNS:
 - Familiarizing with local DD providers and services
 - Connection to ISC and for those without Medicaid, connection to local Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC), as well as Centers for Independent Living and others as needed
 - Connect individuals/families to other individuals/families as appropriate, to learn about service navigation and creative use of funding

**Support the ISC-Family Relationship
Facilitate efficient planning process
Empower Families & Self-Advocates**

Online Education

- Ligas Family Advocate Program 2020 Webinar Series:
 - 5/6/20: Where Do I Want to Live? What Can I Afford" (affordable housing resources)
 - 6/10/20: Self-Direction Assistance, an optional service of the waiver
 - 7/9/20: Behavioral Intervention & Treatment, Behavior Counseling, Psychotherapy
 - 8/13/20: Community Day Service Programs
 - 9/10/20: DRS v. DDD Medicaid waivers –how to choose?
 - 10/8/20: Host Family CILAs
 - 11/12/20: Transportation, Non-Medical –registering as a DDD Impact Provider – postponed;
- See: <https://www.thearcofil.org/events/ligas-family-advocates-family-support-network-webinars/>

Trainings occur throughout the state and online, serve self-advocates, families, and focus on understanding options within the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver

In-person Group Events

- Our “Know Your Options” take place throughout the state in public libraries, and at the offices of local ISCs and providers
- They present an opportunity for an overview of the services of the waiver
- Individuals attending often hear from representatives of their local ISC and local providers; during COVID-19 these have been offered virtually

Resources

- Extensive Educational Resource Tools with links to key resources:
 - PUNS informational flowchart
 - DRS DDD Comparison Chart
 - Medicaid Q & A
 - 2020 Planning for DD Services; 2020 PUNS selected services;
 - CILA v. HBS Support Services
 - PUNS, the Basics
 - Connect the Dots Transition Tool
 - Residential Services of the Waiver

See: <https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/ligas-family-advocate-program/> (Scroll down to “Key Resources”)

Contact us

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