



Director: Shirley Perez

<https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/ligas-family-advocate-program/>



The Ligas Family Advocate Program is funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.–Division of Developmental Disabilities

Our History

The Ligas Family Advocate program began as a pilot project in 2014 funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services in response to a need for consistent statewide information about waiver options for PUNS selectees after implementation of the Ligas Consent Decree in 2011. "Ligas" is the last name of the lead plaintiff, Stanley, a man living with Down syndrome, who sued the State to access a community-based, non-institutional living option. We offer information and support to those beginning the process to become eligible for the Medicaid waiver for adults with DD in Illinois so they may make informed choices.

Ligas Class Member Criteria



1. You must be an adult (18 and above) in Illinois, have an intellectual disability or other developmental disability, qualify for Medicaid Waiver services.
2. Reside in a private ICFs-DD with nine or more residents or in a family home.
3. The State must have a current record of your request for community based services or community based living

Meet our team!



Ruth Aguilar –Northern LFA
Bilingual



Shirley Perez -Director



Megan Mutti –Senior LFA

We know how to help because we've been in your shoes. We are family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, and we understand the need for assistance in making informed choices about living and service options.

Together, we can direct you to the resources you need.

How We Help?

Imagine that our team will show you the **map** to navigate the system!

- ✓ Advise
- ✓ Prepare
- ✓ Connect



Advise

No matter what stage you are in, our team will provide assistance plans for maximum success.

One-on-one meetings:

- PUNS Process
- Selection Process PAS
- Eligibility
- Documentation
- Planning / transition process
- Services



Prepare



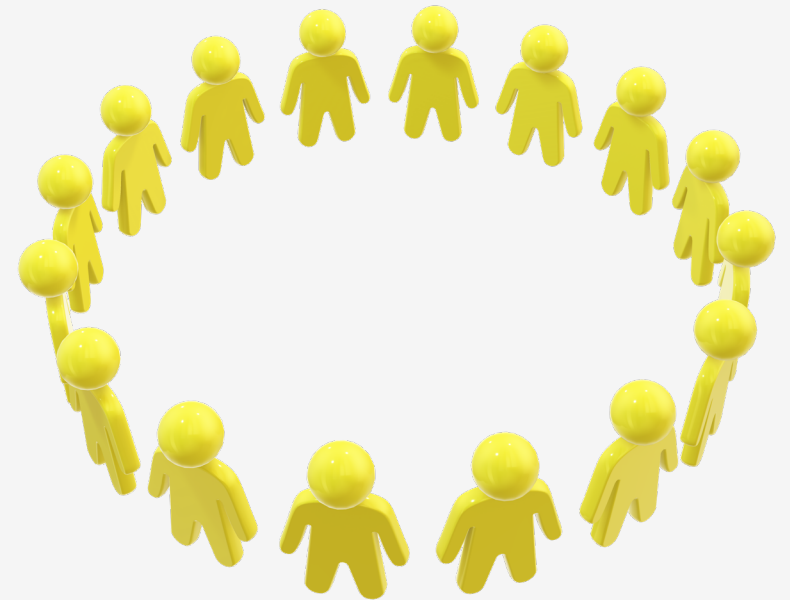
Your ISC is your gateway to the services!

We can prepare you for the pre-admission screening process with your Independent Service Coordination (ISC) agency.

Connect

Meet other families and build a broader support network through informative workshops and events.

LFAs will support you in connecting to your Independent Service Coordination Agency, which is a key step in accessing adult disability services.



Our Impact

For FY-21/22 all 1593 Selections for the Entire State of Illinois

-We have sent letters to all selectees to offer help in the process

Shirley –Oversees the whole state plus some ISCs (e.g., CSO, Serv. Inc A,F)

Ruth –Northern Region (CAU, Service Inc of IL Reg. E, Suburban Access)

Megan -South and Central Region (Areas: G, H,I,J,K,L)

At least 12 in a FY Know Your Options Webinars English and Spanish

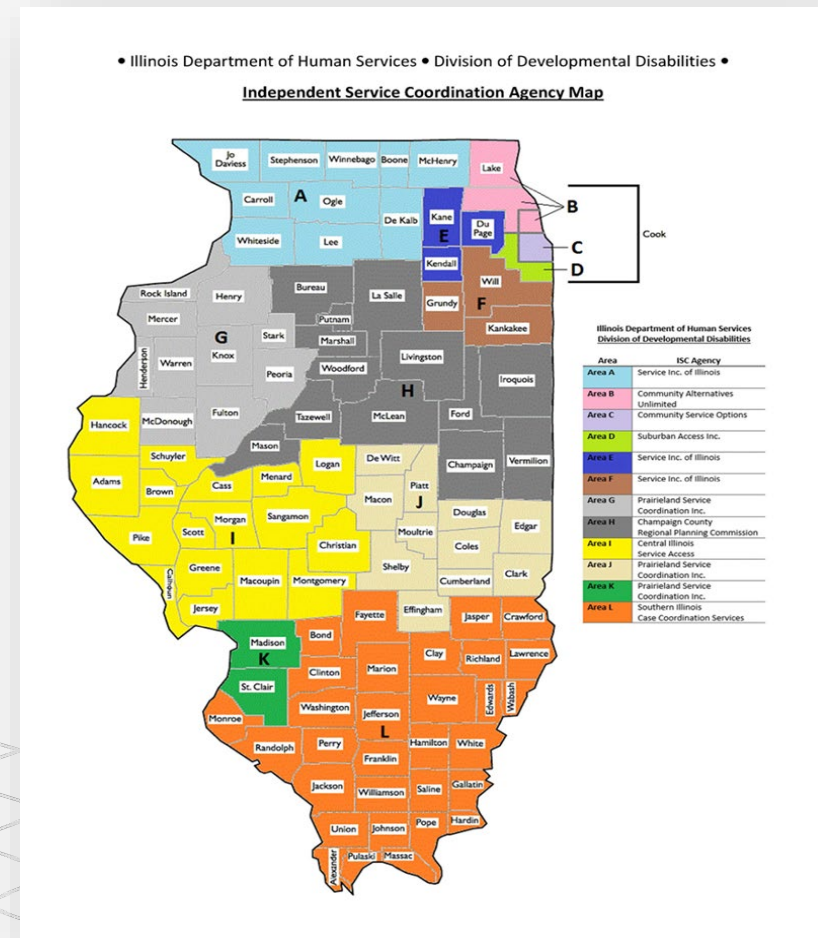
Various trainings in collaboration with ISCs and DD Providers

Home Base Bootcamp

Informational Seminar

Annual Arc Conference

Outreach / Co-sponsor events / One-on-one advocacy meetings



Contact us!

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Ruth Aguilar Ruth@thearcofil.org