

**ILLINOIS
PARENTS OF
ADULTS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
UNITE**



HOW IT STARTED

- Started as in-person support and advocacy efforts by a group of parents, led by Laurie Jerue and Ellen Bronfeld about 20 years ago
- Became a Yahoo group to increase reach beyond the Chicago suburbs
- Moved to Facebook in 2016
- Ellen and Laurie created a new leadership team in early 2021 and retired from their roles as group administrators
- Current admin team is Diane Compton, Kate DT, and Marie Herbert—with many volunteer advisors who work behind the scenes
- Group is currently around 6,500 members

IPADD UNITE

WHO WE ARE

- 6,500 members
- Primarily **parents of adults/teens with IDD** who are **Illinois residents**
- Also self-advocates, siblings, other family members, non-family guardians, teachers, non-profit service providers, business providers
- IPADDU is statewide—membership is proportionate to population centers in Illinois
- Entirely volunteer leadership

The logo for IPADD UNITE is located in the bottom left corner. It features the word "IPADD" in large, bold, black letters on a light blue rectangular background. To the right of this, the word "UNITE" is written vertically in white, sans-serif capital letters on a black rectangular background.

IPADD UNITE

WHAT WE DO

- ✓ **Share ideas and experiences**
- ✓ **Provide information, referrals, support for families of adults with IDD**
 - Help families transition from children's services to adult services
 - Help families navigate adult services
- ✓ **Advocate for policy that supports independence**
 - Funding for adult services
 - Education (post-K12 transition, higher education)
 - Options in housing
 - Employment support

WHAT WE DON'T DO

- ✗ Professional advice (e.g., medical, legal, financial)
- ✗ Provide resources for children under age 15
- ✗ Provide out-of-state resources
- ✗ Business advertising
- ✗ Negative reviews of service providers and businesses
- ✗ Fundraising
- ✗ Conduct background checks

HOW TO JOIN US

- Visit our group page on Facebook
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IPADDUnite>
- Be sure to answer ALL the membership questions.
- Read and agree to the group rules.
- Join the conversation!
- We are always looking for volunteers who can share skills with us!
 - Website design
 - Advocacy research
 - Professional expertise

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