



Statement from The Arc of Illinois on Illinois's Ranking for Community Based Services

April 5, 2023

Today I received updated information on how Illinois's spending on community services compared to the rest of the nation in Fiscal Year 2019.

The news is not good.

The latest information from [The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#) indicates that in Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019):

- Illinois ranked **49th in the nation in fiscal effort on community services** (this means it ranks 49th when controlling for state wealth). Only Nevada and Texas spend LESS than Illinois comparatively.
- Illinois ranked **4th in the nation in fiscal effort for institutional services** (also controlling for wealth). The only states that invest MORE funding into institutional services than Illinois comparatively are Iowa, Mississippi, & Arkansas.

With the [Choate transformation](#) underway, I am hopeful that we will see increased investments in the community, particularly in light of the expected [budget surplus](#). For community-based providers to best support people transitioning out of Choate Developmental Center, we will need to see another historic investment in community-based services. A great place to start is by meeting the Guidehouse Rate Study's recommendation that Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages should be increased by \$4 per hour. The [Governor's proposed budget](#) includes only a \$1.50 per hour increase. **SB2026 and HB3569 would implement a \$4 per hour DSP wage increase beginning 1/1/24**. Learn more [here](#) and [here](#).

--- Amie Lulinski, PhD, Executive Director