



Governor's Proposed FY25 Budget Falls Short

February 23, 2024

Governor J.B. Pritzker shared his proposed FY25 budget on February 21, 2024. Disappointingly, the proposed budget maintains status quo by only including already obligated funds, rather than infusing much needed funding into a chronically under-resourced system. While we were relieved that the Governor's Administration did not ultimately allow the decrease of 2.5 million DSP hours to the IDD system in Illinois as planned, we are very concerned about the absence of DSP wage increases to keep on par with Guidehouse recommendations (which are 150% of minimum wage)¹.

Further, we remain concerned about the state's system redesign effort underway. The IDD system redesign initiative started in March of 2023² is largely dependent on the capacity of the community-based system to provide services and supports. There are 15,742 people on the waiting list for services as of 1/31/2024.³ Though hundreds of children and adults have been selected through PUNS, it is unfortunate that many have been unable to obtain services due to the workforce crisis. This is not limited to those living in CILA; individuals and families continue to have difficulty in recruiting and retaining high quality DSPs which allow their family member to remain in the family home. Family members, already stretched thin, are finding themselves working "shifts" due to not having adequate staffing. We can do better and we must.

The budget briefing book is available [here](#) while the detailed operating budget is [here](#).

The transcript is available [here](#).

--Amie Lulinski, PhD, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois

¹ IDHS: [Developmental Disability Services Rate Study \(state.il.us\)](#)

² IDHS: [DD System Transformation \(state.il.us\)](#)

³ IDHS: [PUNS snapshot as of 1/31/24 \(state.il.us\)](#)