

ABOUT OUR SPONSOR, VENDOR & PARTICIPANTS ***12th Arc FSN/Ligas Informational Seminar***

ACES\$ - SPONSOR

ACES\$, Avenues to Consumer Employment Services and \$supports is a consumer directed, community based non-profit organization. ACES\$ provides fiscal intermediary services to maintain its mission of ensuring independence for individuals by allowing them the freedom to select their own personal care givers. Northern Illinois Office: 7820 Graphics Drive, Suite 106 Tinley Park, IL 60477; Central/Southern Illinois Office: ACES\$ 830 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62704 Toll Free Number (877) 223-7781 Website: <https://mycil.org/>

Arc of Illinois

The Arc of Illinois and its chapters have always been in the forefront of strong advocacy positions for people with disabilities and their families. Much of the important legislation nationally and in Illinois is a direct result of the advocacy of The Arc. It is rare when any piece of public policy does not have the fingerprints of The Arc upon it. The Arc continues to be a strong grassroots organization with a rich membership of self-advocates, parents and professionals working together to achieve common goals. Website: <http://www.thearcofil.org/>

Answer INC. – VENDOR

The Answer Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, provides support, resources, education, recreation, and advocacy for families in the greater Chicago area that are challenged with supporting family members with Autism & Developmental Disorders. In addition to providing essential resources & services for parents and caregivers, our agency strives to help contribute to the continued growth, educational and recreational inclusion for the children and relatives specifically impacted. Our mission is to provide and increase Autism awareness for our family member's caregivers, law enforcement, and the community. We provide supportive services that will build and create a more productive and effective communication skills among the above groups listed, creating a healthier and safer environment for families who live with Autism. <https://theanswerinc.org/mission>

Envision Unlimited

Since 1950 the caring community of Envision Unlimited has served people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We

provide individualized approaches that offer hope and facilitate attainable opportunities through leading accredited programs. Envision is a dedicated, compassionate community that provides the best services to over 1,200 individuals. We measure our success by our clients' progress, as we help children and adults realize self-identified goals and objectives. Above all, Envision is an advocate for the developmentally disabled community. We believe all individuals, given the right opportunities, can achieve great breakthroughs and leading lives with more meaningful possibilities. Website: <https://www.envisionunlimited.org/>

Equip For Equality

Established in 1985, Equip for Equality is a nationally recognized, private, not-for-profit organization that:

- **Promotes self-advocacy** and serves as a **legal advocate** for people with disabilities, and handles individual cases and systems-change litigation to achieve broad-based societal reforms
- **Independently monitors** public and private institutions and programs serving people with disabilities.
- Serves as a **watchdog over the government, business and not-for-profit sectors**
- **Advocates through public policy and legislative activities** to give people greater choices in their lives and ensure their independence and inclusion in all aspects of community living
- Empowers people and their families through our **disability rights trainings**, so they can advocate for themselves or others
- Serves as the **federally mandated Protection & Advocacy System for the state of Illinois** <https://www.equipforequality.org/about/mission/>

Family Support Network

The mission of the Family Support Network is to unify individuals with disabilities and their families to advocate for funding, services and community resources that strengthen and support the individual and the family directly by responding to their individual needs and empowering them to live in their own homes. The Family Support Network further seeks to ensure the continuation of all individual supports throughout the life span of the individual. Website: <https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/family-support-network/>

Illinois Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services is one of Illinois' largest agencies, with more than 13,000 employees.

Illinois created IDHS in 1997, to provide our state's residents with streamlined access to integrated services, especially those who are striving to move from welfare to work and economic independence, and others who face multiple challenges to self-sufficiency.

IDHS is proud of its diversity, efficiency, and the services that the agency and its community partners provide to Illinois citizens.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Our vision, mission, and core values define what we stand for and believe in.

Our **vision** defines what we aspire towards.

Our **mission** statement defines what we are here to do.

Our **core values** are the guiding principles that shape our behavior and actions.

Our Vision

All people in Illinois achieve their full potential.

Our Mission

Providing equitable access to social/human services, supports, programs and resources to enhance the lives of all who we serve.

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=27897>

Illinois Life Span

The Illinois Life Span website is the 411 for information, includes contact information for disability specific resources statewide and by county. Additional information available includes Important School and Transition Resources, an Advocacy Toolbox designed to provide basic information to help navigate the Illinois disability system, and an extensive links section. <https://www.illinoislifespanspan.org/>

Ligas Family Advocate Program

The Ligas Family Advocate Program connect recipients of Ligas award letters seeking Home Based or CILA services and their families with family advocates who are knowledgeable about creative ways to utilize their Ligas funding to build successful lives in the community. Ligas family advocates will work to provide information to award letter recipients and their families about ALL options. It is equally important to provide consistent information across the state early enough in the planning stage that award letter recipients and their families have a chance to consider choices that may be outside what is already familiar to them.

Website: <http://ligasfamilyadvocateprogram.org/>

Life's Plan Inc. is one of the first Non-Profit Associations in the country to establish Pooled Trust services for People with Disabilities. Today, Life's Plan Inc. serves over three hundred clients as Corporate Trustee. Scott is an invited speaker for his work on Pooled and individual Special Needs Trusts, Social Security and Medicaid related benefits, guardianship and special needs planning that improves the lives of individuals with Special Needs and their families He has been working as a Disability Advocate since 2000. First working as a Project Manager at the Marriott Foundation with a School to Work program for young people with disabilities called "Bridges...from School to Work." Scott is a newly appointed Board Member on the National Pooled Trust Alliance. www.lifesplaninc.org, Executive Director, Scott Nixon, snixon@lifesplaninc.org, 630-628-7189

Rubin Law -Special Needs Legal & Future Planning

Legal and future planning for our fellow Illinois families of individuals with special needs, including intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and/or mental illness, is not one thing we do, it's the only thing we do; it's not one area of our practice, it's our only area of practice.

Brian and Benjamin Rubin are available to speak to groups and organizations. To arrange for Brian and Benjamin to speak to your group or organization or to schedule an appointment to meet with them, please contact our office by email, fax or telephone. Website: <http://www.rubinlaw.com/>

The Family Transition Project: The Family Transition Project supports individuals and families who want to explore the possibilities of community life, for those currently living in large institutions. Hope is at the heart of the Family Transition Project. We offer resources, advocacy, and encouragement through our unique lens of personal experience to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families who are in the process of transitioning from institutional to community living or just considering a transition. We share our own transition success stories and those of loved ones and many other FTP families. <https://www.thearcofil.org/about-us/programs/family-transition-project/>