



The Illinois PUNS Database and Children's Support Services Waiver

What is PUNS? Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) is a database of Illinois children, adolescents, and adults with developmental disabilities (Cerebral Palsy, Autism, IQ below 70, Seizure Disorder, Down Syndrome, etc.) who have needs – or anticipate having needs – for developmental disability services or supports. This database will help you and your family whether you need services **immediately** or anticipate needing services in the **future**.

Possible Services Include: **In-home supports** to help you live more independently, **Respite Care** to provide temporary relief to your caregiver, **Training Programs** to teach you life and work skills, **Job Coaches** to help you succeed in the workplace, **Residential Living arrangements** to provide you with the security and care you need, **Adaptive Equipment** to make you more independent, and **Other Supports** to improve your quality of life.

How do I Access These Services? Contact your Coordination Agency and make an appointment for an interview. If you reside in **Peoria County**, **Tazewell County**, or **Mason County**, contact **Central Illinois Service Access (CISA) at 1-217-732-4731**.

What is the Process? Once you have completed your interview and your information is entered into the PUNS database, you are put on a **waiting list** and your need for services will be categorized as one of the following:

Emergency – Need immediate services (homelessness, abuse or neglect)

Critical – Need services within 1 year

Planning for need – Need services in 1 to 5 years

A completed process does not confirm that you are eligible for services nor guarantee that services will be provided. HOWEVER, it does guarantee that the Illinois Department of Human Services knows about your need for services.

Suggested Resources:

- Illinois Life Span: www.illinoislifespan.org, 1-800-588-7002
- Central Illinois Service Access: www.cisagroup.org, 1-217-732-4731 or toll free at 1-877-437-9588

For additional information please contact Joyce Aarestad @ 309-347-3532