



Creating the Option of Supportive Housing for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Illinois



Ranked 47th in the country for community inclusion (United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCP), 2016) and amid 13 Olmstead lawsuits, Illinois has an I/DD population that relies on a large number of State Developmental Centers (7 large state facilities housing 1761 people), Non-State ICF-DDs of 16 or more (2711 beds), and 7543 beds in 7-15 bed facilities.

In 2016, Illinois only had 374 people served in homes of 3 or less outside of the family home and 273 in a host home. Illinois has a lot of education to do within the community which can assist other states in that process.

Illinois began a Statewide education campaign led by CSH, funded by the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, to educate the community about the possibility of a person living in their own home or apartment and pushing the Division of Developmental Disabilities to make the supports for this a reality for families that want this option.

Materials have been created that have proven useful in other states to educate stakeholders about what has been offered for other disability groups and what is possible for the I/DD community with the right form of advocacy and community education. This education included:

1. **General Community Education about SH for persons with I/DD:** A Statewide tour directed at audiences whom were interested in alternatives to large group settings. Generally called Supportive Housing 101 – The Basics of SH and how it could be possible for the IDD population.
2. **Parent and Guardian Education:** Education to parents and guardians (P&G) about SH 101, Fears of Letting Go; Fears of What Happens to my child when I die; Will my child be ____ (Safe, Lonely, Healthy, or Non-Destitute)
3. **Self-advocates:** This is possible. Imagine if you had a chance. Establishing role models and social media campaign. Trained a group of self-advocates to act as Supportive Housing Ambassadors to talk about the issue within the self-advocate community.
4. **Providers of Support Services and traditional DD Group Housing:** There remains great provider resistance to new models because of a large investment in real estate and an entrenched funding mode. Illinois also had severe budget problems and models for individual support that did not work well financially for agencies. Despite this, CSH found willing providers interested in trying new models and experimenting with new ideas. Every attempt was made to try and mimic system changes that had occurred in other disability systems.
5. **State Government:** Risks were involved in any change but State government was pressured by the lawsuits to make changes. Videos documented the changes so those changes could become institutionalized as some thing created with government support.
6. **Providers of other Housing;** This included Public Housing and other Supportive Housing Providers and Property Managers through their associations. These were groups that had not included the I/DD Population in their planning or waiting lists. Educating them to include this population as needing supportive housing was a process.

CSH Illinois has created these resources with a hope that they will be utilized in other states as models of system change and education and as a blueprint for any state wishing to move from a system that has always given people with I/DD limited chances to learn to live in their own unit.

A compendium of those resources with active links can be found [HERE](#).

(<https://cshcloud.egnyte.com/dl/SSgspBAIs5>)

This project was developed under an investment from the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities