



Helping people with disabilities live supported, engaged and meaningful lives.®

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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More than 1,300 Children and Their Families will Stop Receiving Vital Services Due to Proposed Budget Cuts to DHS and the Early Intervention Program

Issue: Early Intervention Services in DuPage County and Proposed Cuts in Illinois Funding

Critical Facts

- The primary goal of Early Intervention services is to support families in promoting their child’s optimal development and to facilitate the child’s participation in family and community activities.
- Eligible children and their families receive a variety of developmental, social-emotional, and health services that maximize their development. Services such as speech, language, occupational, and physical therapies, health services, and social work services are provided.
- The current level of eligibility for these services requires a 30% delay which enables children with moderate delays to qualify for services.
- Early Intervention services work, children with moderate delays make the greatest gains, nationally nearly 70% of children receiving Early Intervention services have greater than expected growth, and almost 50% of all children in Early Intervention leave the program functioning at grade level and do not require Special Education services when they start school.
- Early Intervention saves money by providing services and supports at an earlier age and reducing or eliminating the need for school based interventions. For every dollar spent on Early Intervention, \$7 is saved in later services.

The state budget that has been proposed by Governor Rauner would eliminate over 66% of children from this program. **In DuPage County, this would mean over 1,300 children and their families would no longer receive this vital support.** Local school districts would see a huge increase in the number of children needing Special Education Services straining already tight education budgets.

**** Over for page 2 ****

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****** Page 2 ******

We urge citizens to contact their local state legislators to restore funding for this vital service in the State of Illinois budget.

For additional information or to speak with Steve Boisse, Executive Director, please use contact information above. Mr. Boisse has over 30 years of experience working in the State of Illinois in the public benefits sector and 24 years working at PACT, Inc.

PACT, Inc. is the service coordination agency for DuPage County linking individuals with developmental delays and disabilities and their families to community services. We were founded by families in 1981 by a group of parents who wanted to ensure the ongoing well-being of their child with a disability when they could no longer be there. PACT serves more than 6,700 children, families and individuals annually in DuPage County helping them to live supported, engaged and meaningful lives.