



**Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities
Response to Governor Pritzker's FY25 Proposed Budget**

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For Immediate Release

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The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities works tirelessly to promote a strong and stable community system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in partnership with the administration, members of the General Assembly and advocates across the state that share this critical goal.

To be clear, Governor Pritzker has made essential and long-overdue investments in IDD community services which have enabled tens of thousands of Illinois' most vulnerable residents to continue to live in and be a part of their communities. Until the proposed FY25 state budget, this investment has always included an increase for wages paid to Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff, the lifeline of community services. Unfortunately, the Governor did not acknowledge the pending 1/1/25 statewide minimum wage increase and the need to increase reimbursement to community agencies so they can continue to stay competitive with other industries competing for people working as DSPs. If the current budget proposal is enacted, the soonest community agency DSPs and other essential frontline staff could see any wage increase is 2026, which will have a decimating impact on people with IDD living in community settings.

Kim Cornwell, CEO of **EP!C** in Peoria and a member of the Institute Board of Directors echoed a similar sentiment stating that "Governor Pritzker's address was disappointing and did not speak to the shortfalls people with disabilities continue to face or include a plan to correct them. The proposed FY25 budget instead only maintains the current FY24 funding. The state continues to ignore the ongoing challenges to this population despite a pending statewide minimum wage increase to \$15 in January of 2025. They are ignoring the recommended expectations of funding rate increases for services provided above minimum wage for frontline caregivers."

The Institute and its' member organizations which collectively support more than 30,000 people with IDD in community services across Illinois, look forward to continued collaboration with the administration and General Assembly to assure that the progress toward assuring a strong and stable community system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities made under this administration continues.

For more information about the Institute and members and issues, please access our website at: [The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities \(instituteonline.org\)](https://www.instituteonline.org)

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