



Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives

"Empowering Quality Lives"

Dear Ligas Class Member-

How exciting! You have an opportunity to live life based on your hopes and dreams with community based services. IAMC may be able to help you through what can be a scary process. We believe that power comes from connecting to other people. We empower people with developmental disabilities to live quality lives by building connections in their communities.

"It takes a village" – even for adults. We can help you bring together your personal network of friends and family to use their knowledge, experiences, skills, and social connections in creating a great plan for your best life.

Microboards and Cooperatives:

- are family members, trusted friends, and community members supporting you to make decisions about your own life. *(Responsibility is willingly shared so it's no longer just you handling everything.)*
- make decisions that are centered on your identity, gifts, hopes and dreams. *(It's all about creating a life for you; not about you fitting into a life already created by an agency.)*
- are formally structured to last for your lifetime. *(The first microboard, established in Canada, has been active for over 30 years!)*
- seek to use all available resources – both formal (such as the Home Based Waiver or CILA services) and informal (such as natural supports in your community) – and help to manage the funds intended to support you in your life. *(This means there may be some work involved in keeping records and being accountable to the state for the use of funds – but remember, you're not alone!)*
- focus on quality of life and being an important and valued member of your community. *(Again, it's all about creating the best life possible with real relationships and meaningful activities.)*

Explore our website to find out more: www.iambc.org. Contact any of us for more information or just to chat about the possibilities. We look forward to hearing from you!

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