



Illinois Association of Microboards and Cooperatives

"Empowering Quality Lives"

Dear Parent/Guardian-

How exciting! You have an opportunity to consider person centered, community based services for your adult child with a disability. IAMC may be able to help you through what can be an overwhelming process. We believe that power comes from connection. We empower people with developmental disabilities and their families to live quality lives by building connections within their communities.

"It takes a village" – even when our children are adults. We can help you gather a personal network to harness the power of their collective knowledge, experiences, skills, and social connections in creating an innovative plan for a good life for your child.

Microboards and Cooperatives:

- are active, diverse, fully engaged groups of family, trusted friends, and community members serving alongside the person providing strength, support and companionship. *(Responsibility is willingly shared so it's no longer just you handling everything.)*
- make decisions that are centered on the person's identity, gifts, hopes and dreams based on the principles of self-determination and person centered planning. *(It's all about creating a life for your child; not fitting your child into a life already created by an agency.)*
- are formally structured to ensure longevity and stability. *(The first microboard, established in Canada, has been active for over 30 years! Which answers our greatest fear – "What will happen when I'm gone?")*
- seek to make the best use of all available resources – both formal (such as the Home Based Waiver or CILA services) and informal (such as natural supports in your community) – and is structured to ensure fiscal accountability. *(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 meaningful, purposeful community engagement. *(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](http://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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