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331-7370

**April, 2014**

Congratulations on being selected from PUNS! Although you will be directed through the process from selection through initiation of services by your Independent Service Coordination Agency, there is another program through which you may also find assistance during this important time.

The Ligas Family Advocate Program has been implemented to help individuals with disabilities selected from PUNS due to the Ligas Consent Decree. Ligas Family Advocates (LFAs) are available to help you and the family members/caregivers/loved ones who are supporting you as you consider the life that you want, and how this funding can help you build that life. **This program is currently available only to individuals served by three of the eighteen statewide Independent Service Coordination Agencies. Developmental Disabilities Services of Metro East, Suburban Access, and Community Service Options, Inc. are the participating Independent Service Coordination Agencies. The Family Support Network of Illinois is the Ligas Family Advocate Program administrator. Statewide availability for this program is planned in the near future!**

Ligas Family Advocates can share with you how others throughout Illinois are using their funding to live full and integrated lives in their communities. These LFAs are all family members of individuals with disabilities who want to help others explore and understand new and creative ways to build the lives they truly desire in the community. Ligas Family Advocates can connect you with other individuals/families with similar goals or who share other commonalities. Are you looking for a paid job in your community? What type of home is right for you? Do you dream of a place to share with a friend? What are the activities/groups that are important to you and that you want to continue in the future? How will you continue to make choices and have them respected if you live in a group home?

If you are interested in speaking with a Ligas Family Advocate and will be served by Developmental Disabilities Services of Metro East, Suburban Access, or Community Service Options Inc., please call the Family Support Network at (708) 331-7370 and we will connect you to the Ligas Family Advocate in your area. If you are covered by one of the other fifteen Independent Service Coordination Agencies who are not yet part of this program, please contact your Independent Service Coordination Agency directly for assistance.

We know that some of you have been looking forward to this day for many years and have already made decisions about services and providers. Others still have questions and concerns and would like to access as much information and as many resources as possible before making decisions about how to best utilize this funding.

Again, congratulations! We hope that this is a big step forward in achieving a full and fulfilling life. We look forward to meeting you and providing assistance along the way.

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Perez  
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***Connecting families with family advocates!***