

PUNS – The Basics

Arc of Illinois Family-to-Family Health Information Center

- PUNS = Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services
- PUNS is made up of a list of people in the state of Illinois with developmental disabilities who need services.
- PUNS is for everyone who may need help from the government to pay for developmental disability services now or in the future.
- PUNS is the first step toward getting services in Illinois. If you are NOT on the PUNS list, you are NOT on the waiting list for services.
- To get on the PUNS list:
 - Set up to meet with a Preadmission Screener at your ISC (Central Illinois is Central Illinois Service Access – CISA - in Lincoln)
 - The screeners will ask questions about you and your needs, and these questions are part of the PUNS survey.
 - To get on the PUNS list, you must have a developmental disability. If you do not know if you have a developmental disability, the screener that you talk to at your ISC can guide you.
- If you don't know how to get in touch with your Independent Service Coordination Agency, also called the "ISC", call The Arc Illinois Life Span at 1-800-588-7002. You can also call DHS at 1-888-DD-PLANS.
- Once you have gotten the PUNS survey done, you are on the waiting list for services. But, this does NOT mean you will qualify for services when your name is selected. When you are selected, you will go through a full evaluation to see if you qualify.
 - To qualify, you must have a proven IQ of less than 70 OR
 - You must have a listed diagnosis that impairs your abilities in three of six areas:
 - Self-care
 - Receptive/Expressive Language
 - Learning
 - Mobility
 - Self-direction
 - Economic Self-Sufficiency/Capacity for Independent Living
 - Your ISC can give you more information on each of these areas
- Some services that you may need when you are selected, evaluated and approved:
 - In-Home Support (Home-based Services or Family CILA or Supportive Housing)
 - Respite Care
 - Job Coaching
 - Group Home (CILA, ICFDD)
- There is not enough money in Illinois to give everyone that needs support the services that they need. Right now, the PUNS list is the fairest way to decide who receives services.
- You must update the PUNS for EVERY YEAR by getting in touch with your ISC, or you will lose your chance to be selected for services.
- If you need help or have questions, call Illinois Lifespan at 1-800-588-7002 or the Ligas Family Advocate Program at the Arc of Illinois at www.ligasfamilyadvocateprogram.org
- If you want information about PUNS or Homebased services, go to www.familysupportnetwork.org