

200,000 people need help.

Please support the *Blueprint* to help Illinois' developmentally disabled.

_____ (your organization's name here) is proud and excited about a new plan that can fix Illinois' broken system for supporting the some 200,000 Illinoisans with developmental disabilities. Today, nearly 17,000 Illinoisans with developmental disabilities are on a waiting list for supports and services - half of which have a critical or emergency need. Illinois ranks last in the nation in the percentage of people with developmental disabilities living in a community-based setting.

It's time for change. The *Blueprint* provides the General Assembly and policy makers with a seven year framework to give individuals with developmental disabilities the long-term solutions they need.

These comprehensive recommendations would improve the current system by redesigning the state's funding structure to utilize more efficient community-based programs. The *Blueprint* would invest our taxpayer dollars more efficiently so that state money would follow the person.

It's time for leadership. The *Blueprint* will help more people and would eliminate the state's waiting list. The *Blueprint* will put Illinois on the path towards a better future. Change can be difficult but Illinoisans with developmental disabilities deserve better than the status quo.

Reforming Illinois' system through the *Blueprint* makes economic sense and it's the right thing to do.

All Illinoisans with developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to live full and happy lives in their communities near their loved ones. Please go to www.GetToKnowTheBlue.org and support its implementation.

Respectfully,

Organization's Name County

Signature Title

Address City, IL Zip Code

Phone E-mail address

- (1) Fax the completed letters to 312-814-7141
- (2) Or mail to: Sheila Romano, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 10-600, Chicago, Illinois 60601
- (3) Or e-mail scanned copies to Sheila.Romano@illinois.gov