

## **PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW -- Stop DSP Hours Cuts!**

### **REMINDER**

Dear Families/Guardians/Friends,

I hope the new year is off to a great start for you and your family.

I share the message below from the They Deserve More coalition and hope everyone will take action by taking the time to write to share how important DSPs (Direct Service Providers) are to your family member. It might be the easiest letter you are ever asked to write as we all know how important they are here at Misericordia.

How any budget can include a cut of 2.5 million DSP hours at a time when it is difficult to even find DSPs is beyond comprehension. Our friends at the They Deserve More coalition have been advocating for increased wages for DSPs for years. We greatly appreciate their advocacy and are delighted to support their efforts, especially with respect to these proposed drastic cuts to the Human Services budget.

Our promise to you is that we would not cut DSP hours at Misericordia as we know what DSPs (and all staff) mean to providing the best care possible for your family member. But if we don't take action and the cuts occur, it would mean that our government gap would increase significantly and there would be a need for even greater fundraising.

At this time, the cuts are targeted at group homes. But at some point, it could impact all residential services unless they hear from everyone.

Simply follow the directions below. Share a little about your family member, share that your family member resides at Misericordia, and share how important DSPs are to the quality care your family member receives each and every day. And remember, please be respectful so they hear your voice.

Thank you for taking the time to write. We will continue to update you as we might ask you to send a follow up letter as we obtain more information about these proposed cuts at the end of this month. As always, we are blessed and grateful to have Misericordia parent Scott Mendel monitoring the issue, but he cannot do it alone. If you have any questions or would like some guidance, please reach out to Scott at [scott.mendel@klgates](mailto:scott.mendel@klgates). Thank you, Scott!

We pray that you stay safe and warm these next few days, and please keep our staff in your prayers as they commute to/from Misericordia to make a difference!!

God bless you all,  
Father Jack

# THEY DESERVE MORE

You may well know that DHS-DDD is proposing an update to CILA rate methodology that would result in an **elimination of 2.5 million DSP hours across Illinois providers**. This represents a cut of nearly 10% of DSP hours and statewide workforce, eliminating approximately \$87 million in funding. To say we are stunned and appalled is an understatement. They Deserve More is advocating alongside provider associations and IDD advocacy groups to prevent these cuts. We need your help!

## TAKE ACTION: CONTACT THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE & YOUR LEGISLATORS

The cuts were originally proposed in early 2023 but implementation has been paused repeatedly (thanks to advocacy!). Currently, DHS/DD is targeting March 31 to implement the hurtful cuts.

**We are kicking advocacy into high gear now to ensure the cuts are not included in the Governor's proposed FY25 budget in February.** It is time to fix this problem once and for all.

We must ensure the Governor's Office and legislators are aware of this issue, the threat it poses, and the enormous damage it will do to the wellbeing of people with disabilities and their families. We need to make sure they understand that it needs to be solved NOW -- NOT to include it in the budget proposal!

[\*\*Click here\*\*](#) to send a message to the Governor's Office and your own State Senator and State Representative! Please also share a link to the [\*\*Take Action webpage\*\*](#) throughout your network of staff, families and other supporters. Encourage your network to also tell their personal story – why having less DSP staff will be devastating to their loved one and family.

Sincerely,  
The *They Deserve More* Coalition