

## Further Information

If your district would like to learn more about the PUNS please visit our website: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) or [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us). Either website will provide you with updated information, including but not limited to how to enroll in PUNS, how the selection works and when individuals will be informed if they are selected.



## PRIORITIZATION OF URGENCY OF NEED SERVICES (PUNS)

**Public Act 99-144**  
**Effective January 1, 2016**



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## Understanding PUNS

PUNS or the Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Services is a statewide database that is maintained by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for children and adults with Developmental Disabilities who have an unmet service need now or an anticipated need in the next 5 years.

DHS uses the PUNS data to select individuals for services, as funding becomes available. If individuals are not on the PUNS waiting list, they are not in queue for state developmental disabilities services. A completed PUNS form does not mean that you are eligible for services and does not guarantee that services will be provided. It does ensure that the Illinois Dept of Human Services is aware of your need for services. These needs will be evaluated at least once a year and you may ask for a reevaluation at any time due to a change in circumstances.

Children and adolescents who are registered in the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services database before their 17th birthday shall be placed higher on the waiting list than adolescents who are registered on or after their 17th birthday within the same level of priority.

Selected recipients will be notified by a letter from the Dept of Human Services notifying them of their selection.

## What services are available

Person-first and supports services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are provided in the PUNS program.

Possible services include:

In-home supports

Respite care

Training Programs

Residential living arrangements

Adaptive equipment

And other supports to improve the quality of life.



## Data

### TOTAL PUNS (7/7/2015)

Adults age 22 and above	31,434
Young adults ages 18 through 21	6,681
Children ages 0 through 17	7,787
Total PUNS for all age groups	45,902
Total active PUNS for all groups	22,611

### PUNS BY DIAGNOSIS CODE (7/7/2015)

Autism	5,501
Childhood Disintegrative disorder	9
Pervasive Developmental disorder	510
Cerebral Palsy	619
Mild Mental Retardation	5,342
Moderate Mental Retardation	3,404
Severe Mental Retardation	1,144
Profound Mental Retardation	612
Unspecified Mental Retardation	9,101
Epilepsy	1,666
Other	978