



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **LSSI Earns High Rating in DHS Survey of its Residences for People with Developmental Disabilities**

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) received a 93 percent rating from the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) on its CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangements) group homes that serve individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health issues.

Kevin Bercaw, associate director of LSSI's developmental disabilities program, says, "Out of a possible 335 points, we received 312 points, which translated into a 93 percent rating – an 'A' in my grading system. This put [LSSI's] CILA programs into a very elite group of agencies receiving a LEVEL II award."

The DHS describes a CILA as "a combination of supports and services individually tailored for an adult with developmental disabilities. ... The primary goal of CILAs is to help the individual become more independent in daily living, more involved in his or her own community and more economically self-sufficient." DHS licenses and monitors CILAs, which are managed by community-based service provider agencies, such as LSSI.

This was the first year that the DHS surveyors made unannounced agency visits and randomly sampled all files, and client and guardian interviews. Bercaw adds that the surveyors said that receiving a LEVEL II rating is rare now that the surveys are unannounced. Many agencies that had received Level I and Level II awards in the past (with announced surveys) are now receiving Level III and Level IV awards, according to the surveyors.

The CILA surveyors were also very complimentary of LSSI's homes, staff and care of residents, Bercaw says.

LSSI's CILAs that received the 93 percent rating include: Artesian Group Home in the Rogers Park area, Palmer Square in the Logan's Square area and Belle Plaine Group Home in

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Portage Park, all in Chicago; three group homes for individuals with Prader-Willi Syndrome – Fox Hill Group Home in Aurora, Dixon Group Home and Washington Place in Beardstown; and the Sterling Group Home and Partnership House of LSSI in Sterling. All of the programs listed here are for people with developmental disabilities except the one at Belle Plaine in Chicago, which serves people with mental health issues.

More than 6,245 persons receive CILA supports and services in Illinois. Services typically include in-home supports, day or employment-related services, community transportation and health supports. Nearly 68 percent of persons receiving CILA services receive supports on a 24-hour basis.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). LSSI serves people through an array of services at more than 89 program sites across Illinois.

*For more information about LSSI's development disabilities services, visit [www.LSSI.org](http://www.LSSI.org) or call 847/390-1450.*

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