



State Budget Update – July 17, 2009  
**Governor Quinn Signs Budget –  
Advocacy Needed to Shift Funding from  
State Institutions to Community Agencies**

Dear Aspire Friends and Family,

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed a new budget for the State. Thanks to numerous calls from families and supporters of people with disabilities, the budget spreads the sacrifice of spending cuts across state agencies. Nonetheless, human services funding in Illinois will only be about 86% of last year's funding level.

Aspire has lost state grants totaling 4% of our agency's funding. It is possible that a portion of these grants could be restored with the new budget, but we believe this is unlikely.

The authority now rests with Governor Quinn to determine how the Illinois Department of Human Services allocates its reduced funding for the year. **We urge Governor Quinn to take this opportunity to significantly downsize State Institutions for people with developmental disabilities.** Countless reports and surveys have shown that these State Institutions operate at 2-3 times the cost of community agencies like Aspire. At the same time, these Institutions do not provide the quality care that community non-profit agencies provide. **People with disabilities do much better in community settings than in large State Institutions.**

Despite these strong facts in favor of closing State Institutions, Governor Quinn is up for election next year and will face strong pressure from AFSCME, the State employee union, to keep these Institutions open. **Please call the Governor (312.814.2121 or 217.782.6830) and tell him to DO THE RIGHT THING**—both from a people perspective and a budget perspective! Demand that he begin closing State Institutions while shifting resources to community agencies that can care for people with disabilities better and at a much lower cost.

Sincerely,

Jim Kales, President and CEO