



FREEDOM ORDER
TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to providing community-based alternatives for people with disabilities and recognizes that such services and supports advance the best interests of all Illinoisans; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that consumers and their families have a choice from among a range of supports and settings to most effectively meet their needs for long term care services; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I am committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and seniors have the opportunity to enjoy full lives of independence, productivity and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, self-directed home and community-based services, programs, and other community support programs, currently exist in Illinois to provide opportunities for people to live productive lives in their home communities, and these programs should be expanded and improved by drawing down funding from the federal government; and

WHEREAS, programs to support the reintegration of seniors and people with disabilities from more restrictive residential settings to more integrated settings currently exist in Illinois, and have been found to create significant cost savings, and these programs should be expanded to respond to more individual requests for reintegration; and

WHEREAS, "money follows the person" initiatives provide an opportunity to support individual consumer choice for more integrated long term care services and are considered a "best practice" by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rod Blagojevich, Governor of Illinois, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Illinois, do hereby order the following:

THAT the Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Public Health, Human Services and Aging develop specific, actionable steps by January 15, 2007 to implement the following: a) "money follows the person" initiatives to enable a person with a disability of any age living in an institution or institutional facility who is deemed appropriate for community-based services, and chooses such services, to have public funds that would otherwise have been expended for his or her institutional services expended instead for appropriate community services, supports and settings and b) expansion and improvement of existing community-based programs through a variety of means including, but not limited to, increasing benefits for community-based workers, thereby creating a more stable and qualified workforce.

Given under my hand this the ____ day of _____ 2006.

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor