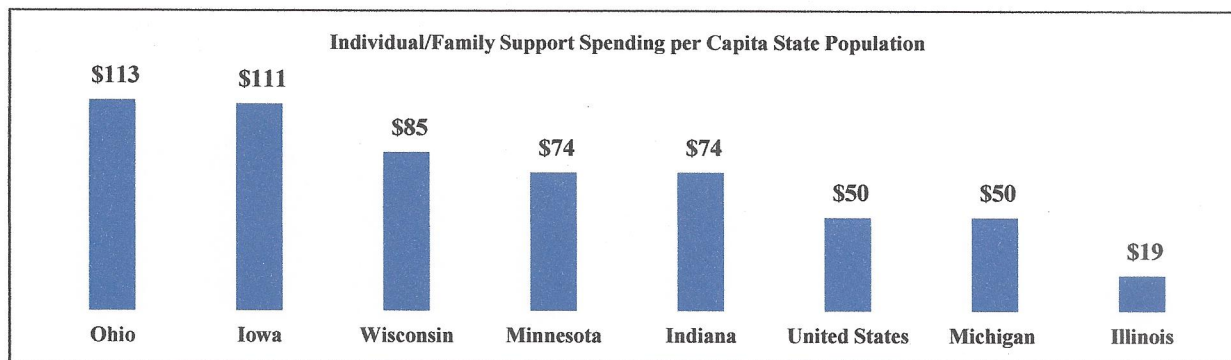


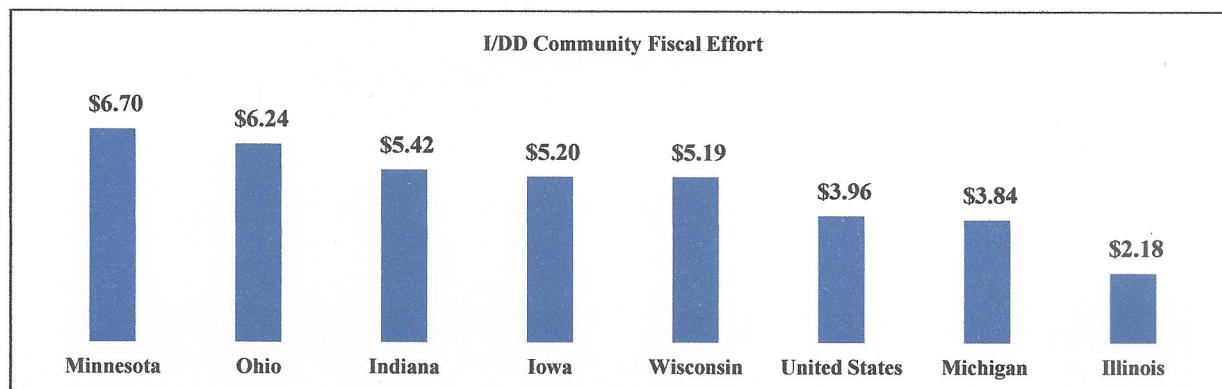
# Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities

## Illinois' Investment in People with Disabilities January 2020

The continuing focus ([Trib Editorial](#)) on the challenges facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families in obtaining adequate community services demands a change in course for the Illinois disability system. While our neighboring Great Lakes states meet or exceed the national average in spending on disability services, Illinois' investment in supporting people with I/DD and their families is woefully lacking.



Individual and Family Support spending consists of spending for individuals with I/DD (supported living/personal assistance and supported employment) and for family support. (Per capita: Per citizen of the general population.) State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services: 2017, Coleman Institute



Community spending in 2013 for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). I/DD spending is divided by statewide personal income, which has been divided by \$1,000, resulting in \$s and cents per \$1,000 of personal income.

Illinois' decades-long underinvestment in community services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities directly impacts the lives of Illinois families such as those highlighted in Ms. Fazio's article, as well as thousands of other families across the state. The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities supports a systemic reform strategy that addresses critical areas including:

- Improve Illinois' ranking in per capita I/DD community investment to at least, the national average
- Index state reimbursement for direct care staff wages to a designated premium above minimum wage so that agencies can recruit and retain a competent and committed workforce
- Develop capacity within the community system to assure that people with significant support needs can remain in their community rather than be forced to seek services in costly institutional settings
- Create a vision for I/DD community services that reflects 21<sup>st</sup> century values and proven best practice approaches to service delivery

As Ms. Fazio's article underscores, Illinois cannot wait another day to begin to address the current situation, nor can the families who desperately need services and support in their communities.