

## MEMO

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TO: Money Follows the Person Transition Coordinators

FROM: Juanita Irizarry, Brady Harden, and Lore Baker, Statewide Housing Coordinators for Long-Term Care Reform, and Ben Noven, Interagency Liaison, Illinois Housing Development Authority, on behalf of the Housing Website Committee of the Section 811 Interagency Panel

RE: Relaunch of the [www.Illhousingsearch.org](http://www.Illhousingsearch.org) website

DATE: September 8, 2014

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On behalf of the Governor's Office, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, and all of the State of Illinois agencies that are working together to rebalance our State's systems to ensure that people with disabilities can live in a home of their own in the most integrated setting possible, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation for the important work that you do on a daily basis. You help individuals and their families lead better lives. We realize how difficult the daily job responsibilities and tasks that you perform are. Without the exemplary and heartfelt commitment, dedication, and passion that you give to your profession, your work, and your clients, we would not be where we are today.

As we strive to better understand the many challenges that you face in helping consumers who need housing in the community, we want you to know that **we are listening to you.** One way that we have attempted to help facilitate your efforts is through the development and implementation of a housing locator tool, better known to many of you as [www.IllHousingSearch.org](http://www.IllHousingSearch.org).

- ❖ With the help of survey information many of you have provided in the past, and through stakeholder interviews and focus groups, over the past six months we have assessed this tool and have **improved many of its functions.** Similar housing website tools are being used effectively in over half the states across the country, and with your help and guidance, we are striving to make it work for us here in Illinois.

To do that, we have arranged for a webinar training to refresh your knowledge of the website's existing features and to introduce you to **brand new features.** The training will be conducted by the staff of Social Serve, the non-profit that developed, manages, and refined various of the features of the housing locator website based on your feedback. They will also be available anytime during work hours after the webinar to make sure you are registered on the caseworker portal and to provide individualized technical assistance as needed.

The webinar will take place on **Thursday, September 18, from 9:30am to 11:30am,** as part of the regular MFP webinar training series. The upcoming webinar invitation will provide the link and dial-in information that you will need to participate.

Thank you again for all you do, and for your role in a successful re-launch of [www.Illhousingsearch.org](http://www.Illhousingsearch.org).