Ray Graham Association invites you to join our **Partners for the Solution** initiative, which is a solution oriented approach to preserving community based services for children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD), while seeking opportunities for fiscally responsible change.

Governor Rauner's Budget & RGA Impact

12.5% rate reduction to ICFDD rates

Total elimination of Respite Services

RGA's Specialized Living Center (SLC) is licensed as an ICFDD (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities). 100 men and women reside in the 6 homes on the campus in Addison, IL. People residing at the SLC are aging, medically fragile, and have significant disabilities. As a result of Illinois' repeated failure to adequately fund I/DD services, this location is already faced with a <u>significant</u> budget deficit. The Governor's budget will devastate people's continuity and security.

RGA supports 350 children and adults to receive Respite Services. Respite is essential and keeps people safe, secure in their homes, and out of emergency rooms and the legal system. Respite is cost effective prevention.

We have the solution: Direct our State's scarce dollars wisely by embracing and investing in public policy that promotes community based supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are cost effective and produce outcomes.

Invest in Respite! The $9 million investment (average $2,800 per person) to continue these services for more than 3,200 families has already demonstrated a significant return. When this affordable option is no longer available and families are in crisis, the Ligas Consent Decree requires immediate funding for either Home Based Services ($26,000 per year) or CILA ($62,000 per year).

Maintain the ICFDD Rate Structure! The 12.5% ICFDD rate cut **would on the surface** save $41.5 million dollars. However, based on a recent survey conducted by IARF, 808 people would lose their residential placement as cuts this deep will result in community based closures. These 808 people with severe disabilities served in their current placement, costs almost $55 million. When they become homeless and need to move to an SODC (State Operated Developmental Center), the state will pay over $196 million! This is a $141 million dollar loss to the state!

Redirect our State's Scarce Resources! Create a plan that strategically focuses on the entire network of SODCs and supports the gradual transition of residents to community integrated settings. Invest in community providers that demonstrate results and build the necessary capacity to serve our most vulnerable population in the communities where we live.

o Illinois continues to operate seven SODCs housing 1,675 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The cost per resident is $243,000 annually. Based on Illinois' own data, there are 220 people residing in SODCs who actively desire to move into a less restrictive home setting, such as a CILA (Community Integrated Living Arrangement) or group home setting with 24 hour supports and services. The average CILA rate statewide is $62,000 presently. <u>Immediately, embrace forward progress with these 220 people at an annual savings of nearly $40 million.</u>

Streamline the Bureaucracies! There are ample opportunities to better streamline at the state-level, including a comprehensive review and overhaul of regulations and monitoring practices that are dated and not focused on the achievement of outcomes. Consider engaging an organization like Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) to ensure best practices throughout the state, focused on outcomes.

We have been told that everyone needs to *tighten their belts*…
Please know the facts before you agree!

- Community service providers, like RGA, were last provided a rate increase of 1.9% in 2008. However, we have seen an increase in inflation of 12%. As a matter of record, cost of doing business increases halted prior to the economic downturn!

- A 12.5% rate decrease in the ICFDD would violate the Ligas Consent Decree, which clearly states that this model of service must be a choice for people with disabilities and their families. Defending this action in a lawsuit would ultimately be a waste of resources.

- ICFDDs, many operated by nonprofit organizations like RGA, are a necessary component of the service delivery system. These settings provide medical services that are simply not available in the CILA/Group Home setting. The population is aging and the location provides specialized dementia care and supports people with the utmost dignity through the end of their life. The average ICFDD rate is $68,000 annually.

- Illinois ranks 5th in the highest number of people with disabilities living with aging caregivers. With a system starved for resources, eliminating Respite is a reckless decision.

- In total, the community system serves 40,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Unlike hospitals and nursing homes, the nonprofit community service providers rely almost exclusively on state funding, specifically Medicaid. This means that community providers are much more sensitive to rate reductions. Additionally our rates aren't tied to the minimum wage, if that increases, the ramifications will surely shut down community services.

- Nearly every dollar the state spends on community based services is matched, therefore any reduction in funding would result in less federal dollars available.

Have you ever wondered how we compare to our neighbors?

State	GDP Ranking (2013 data)	I/DD Community Spending*	Regional Ranking	National Ranking
Illinois	5th	$2.05	6th	44rd
Indiana	16th	$5.13	4th	14th
Michigan	13th	$3.75	5th	26th
Minnesota	17th	$6.60	1st	5th
Ohio	7th	$6.09	2nd	8th
Wisconsin	20th	$5.14	3rd	12th

Community Services Fiscal Effort for I/DD Services: 2011 (State of the States Report, Braddock)
*Dollars per $1,000 of personal income – residential settings of 15 or fewer and non-residential settings