



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI ILLINOIS AFFILIATES

- Barrington Area
- Champaign County
- Cook County North Suburban
- CUPFUL (East St. Louis)
- DeKalb, Kane So. & Kendall Counties
- DuPage County
- Elk Grove/Schaumburg
- Greater Belleville
- Greater Chicago
- Greater Decatur
- Grundy County
- Hanover Township
- Jackson County
- Kankakee County
- Kane County
- Lake County
- Livingston/McLean Counties
- Macomb
- Madison County
- McHenry County
- Metro Suburban (Oak Park)
- Metropolis-Southern Most Illinois
- Morgan/Scott Counties
- Mount Vernon
- Northern Illinois (Rockford)
- North Central Illinois (Ottawa)
- Northwestern Memorial (Chicago)
- Northwest Suburban (Arlington Heights)
- Quincy
- Rock Island/Mercer Counties
- Sauk Valley (Dixon)
- Southeastern Illinois (Harrisburg)
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- South Suburbs of Chicago
- Southwest Suburban (Oak Lawn)
- Springfield
- Stark County
- Tri-County (Peoria)
- University of Illinois Champaign
- Vermilion County
- Will County

Grading the States 2009 - Media Talking Points:

National Trends, Messages and Concepts:

- ✚ Mental health care in America is in crisis.
- ✚ Every state is threatened right now with budget cuts. This is a time when state mental health services are even more urgently needed.
- ✚ Even states that have been working hard to build life saving, recovery-oriented, cost-effective, evidence-based systems of care stand to see progress wiped out by the nation’s economic crisis and state budget shortfalls.
- ✚ We know what works to save lives and help people recover. In the face of crisis, we need to move forward, not retreat. We cannot leave some of our most vulnerable citizens behind.

Illinois Messages and Concepts:

- ✚ Illinois’ progress – from an F three years ago – to this year’s D grading is welcome, but a D is nothing to write home about.
- ✚ There is still a lot of work to be done – NAMI is a willing partner to work toward more progress.
- ✚ There are fundamental structural problems in Illinois’ mental health care system. Budget cuts will only make those problems worse.
- ✚ We need to look at what we are doing well and take measures to protect and reinforce what we know works.
- ✚ We have to work together to build momentum for change. Leadership, political will and investment are urgently needed.
- ✚ We need now, more than ever, to be prudent with taxpayer dollars. Our mental health care system must invest in cost-effective, proven services that save lives and save money.



218 W. Lawrence Springfield, IL 62704
 (217) 522-1403 (800) 346-4572 (217) 522-3598 fax
 namiil@sbcglobal.net http://il.nami.org

Why Did Illinois' Grade Improve?

- ✚ CIT and jail diversion programs
- ✚ Peer education and peer supports
- ✚ Community education and awareness efforts

Illinois' Urgent Needs:

- ✚ Invest in community-based services to help keep individuals out of high cost services, i.e. emergency rooms, hospitals, jails, prisons and homelessness.
- ✚ End warehousing in nursing homes and IMDs (institutions for mental disease)
- ✚ Address problems with fee for service and prompt payment issues for community-based mental health service providers
- ✚ Invest in services that meet evidence-based fidelity standards

And most importantly... use this opportunity to tell your local story! Talk about:

- ✚ Your affiliate – your priorities – your services and your goals
- ✚ Educate the community about mental illness
- ✚ Create a relationship with the reporter – if they don't know NAMI, use this as an introduction and create the opportunity to stay in touch!

We'll be here to help... so if there is anything at all that we can do, please call:

(217) 522-1403 (800) 346-4572