



## Esperanza Acronyms

Here are some commonly used acronyms here at Esperanza, which help streamline communication and ensure clarity among staff, volunteers, and partners. Understanding these acronyms is essential for efficiently navigating our programs, initiatives, and internal processes, allowing everyone to stay informed and aligned with our mission.

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**ADA**      **Americans with Disabilities Act**  
A federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and public/private spaces open to the general public.

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**ANCOR**      **American Network of Community Options and Resources**  
A national organization that advocates for service providers supporting individuals with disabilities.

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**BCABA**      **Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst**  
A certification for professionals who assist BCBA's in implementing behavior intervention plans.

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**BCBA**      **Board Certified Behavior Analyst**  
A certified professional who designs and implements behavior intervention plans, often for individuals with autism or other developmental disabilities.

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**CDS**      **Community Day Services**  
Programs that offer daytime support, skill-building, and activities for individuals with disabilities.

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**CILA**      **Community Integrated Living Arrangement**  
A residential program in Illinois that provides housing and support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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**CMS**      **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**  
Federal agency that oversees Medicare, Medicaid, and other healthcare programs.

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**DCFS**      **Department of Children and Family Services**  
Protects children from abuse and neglect and provides foster care and adoption services.

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**DDD**      **Division of Developmental Disabilities**  
A state-level agency that provides support and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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**DSP**      **Direct Support Professional**  
Provides hands-on care and assistance to individuals with disabilities to help them live independently.

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**HCBS**      **Home and Community-Based Services**  
Medicaid-funded programs that provide support to individuals with disabilities and seniors in their homes or communities rather than institutions.

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**IDDD**      **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**  
A term encompassing a range of disabilities that affect cognitive and adaptive functioning.

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**IDHS**      **Illinois Department of Human Services**  
State agency that provides social services, including support for individuals with disabilities, mental health services, and public assistance programs.

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**IEP**      **Individualized Education Program**  
A legally mandated document outlining educational goals, services, and accommodations for students with disabilities in public schools.

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**ISBE**      **Illinois State Board of Education**  
Oversees public education in Illinois, including special education and teacher certification.

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**PARA**      **Paraprofessional**  
Supports teachers in the classroom by assisting students with special needs in their learning and development.

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**PCP**      **Person-Centered Planning**  
A planning process focused on the individual's strengths, preferences, and goals to create a support plan tailored to their needs.

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**PUNS**      **Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services**  
An Illinois database that tracks individuals with disabilities who are waiting for state-funded services.

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**QIDP**      **Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional**  
A professional responsible for developing and overseeing care plans for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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**RBT**      **Registered Behavior Technician**  
A paraprofessional who works under a BCBA to provide behavior therapy and interventions.

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**SNAP**      **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**  
A federal program that provides food assistance to low-income individuals and families.

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**SSDI**      **Social Security Disability Insurance**  
A federal program that provides financial assistance to individuals with disabilities who have worked and paid into Social Security.

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**SSI**      **Supplemental Security Income**  
A federal program providing financial assistance to low-income individuals who are elderly, blind, or disabled.