

**Governor Pritzker Visits Institute Member Esperanza Community Services**  
September 17, 2020

Gov. Pritzker, along key IDHS leadership visited Esperanza Community Services today to learn more about I/DD community agencies and meet with direct support professionals.

Joy Decker, CEO of Esperanza and a member of the Institute Board of Directors Executive Committee hosted the visit which highlighted Esperanza services, staff and mission – a well-deserved honor for an outstanding program and CEO. Especially excited to have had an Institute member organization take part in this rare and important visit from a Governor.

Below is DD Director Allison Stark's message regarding the event.

I am so pleased to share that Governor JB Pritzker, Assistant Secretary Quintero, and I visited the Esperanza Community Services in Chicago this morning. It was an amazing opportunity for the Governor to meet Executive Director, Joy Decker and learn more about Esperanza, community-based services and meet some individuals with I/DD. We also took the opportunity to thank a few of Esperanza's amazing DSPs during DSP Recognition Week! We are so thankful that Governor Pritzker made it a priority to visit a community-based DD provider, especially during this very special week.



Clockwise: 1) Esperanza team, IDHS team with Governor Pritzker, 2) Executive Director, Joy Decker, Director Stark and Assistant Secretary Quintero, 3) Esperanza DSPs, 4) Governor Pritzker looking at client art

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our providers for all you do each day to support individuals with I/DD across the state of Illinois. Your dedication and commitment is commendable.