



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Your voice matters. Through our advocacy program we help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families connect with policy makers to use their voice, experiences, and expertise to inform and improve resources and services.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- Alternatives to Guardianship (Supported Decision-Making)
- Increasing DSP/Caregiver pay
- Finding Supported Employment
- Affordable Housing
- Eliminating restraint and seclusion



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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES



We advocate for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live, learn, work, and play in the community – improving the quality of life for all of us.

KEY POLICY ISSUES FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD)

CIVIL RIGHTS

Civil rights must be preserved through vigilant enforcement of laws and regulations as well as strong opposition to efforts that limit the rights of people with IDD.

COMMUNITY- BASED LONG TERM SUPPORTS & SERVICES

These must be widely accessible., consumer-controlled, and provided in the community without the requirement that people with IDD impoverish themselves in order to obtain assistance with activities of daily living, such as getting dressed, taking medications, and preparing meals.

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

These professionals must be well-trained and fairly and adequately compensated to provide the necessary supports and services for people with IDD where they work and live.

EDUCATION

The education system must help people with IDD achieve their full potential and independence by having high expectations, integrated instruction by certified and effective teachers, inclusive classrooms, appropriate assessments, and only using positive behavioral supports.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment programs must be expanded to provide more job development, placement, and coaching, skills training, and other services necessary to help find and maintain competitive, integrated employment for people with IDD.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Counseling, support groups, respite, training, cash assistance, and information and referral must be made widely available to family caregivers, especially those who are aging, and who provide supports in the community. This will help avoid costly and unwanted institutional placements of individuals with IDD.

HEALTH CARE

People with IDD must have timely access to high quality, comprehensive, accessible, affordable, and individualized health care services to improve and maintain health and functioning.

HOUSING

An adequate supply of safe, accessible, integrated and affordable supportive housing in the community for people with IDD must be available.

MEDICAID

This program is the single largest funding source of both acute health care and long term supports and services for people with IDD. It must be preserved and rebalanced to make home and community-based services the norm and institutional services the exception.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

There is need for more comprehensive federal research, surveillance, analysis, education, and training concerning people with IDD across the lifespan.



SOCIAL SECURITY, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI), & SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INCOME (SSDI)

This system provides the primary income sources for many people with significant disabilities to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. Benefits and eligibility must be maintained and the long-term financial future of these programs must be considered outside of deficit reduction efforts.

TAX REVENUE

Sufficient tax revenue must be raised in order to appropriately fund social insurance (Social Security, Medicare, safety net (Medicaid, Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI), and discretionary programs (such as housing, education, employment, and transportation) that people with IDD rely on for their safety, health, and well-being.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology must be accessible and made widely available to make communication, education, independent living, and employment opportunities available for people with IDD.

TRANSPORTATION

Accessible transportation programs must be expanded and anti-discrimination policies must be enforced to help people with IDD access employment, health care, and other aspects of daily community living.