

Many Voices / One Vision



The [Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities](#) (CAC) is asking legislators to keep the promise.

- **No cuts to services**
- **Implement a plan to build up community supports and phase out IDD institutions**

The CAC is a coalition of dozens of organizations from across the state, representing self-advocates, parents, and professionals. We believe all people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (IDD) should have the support they need to live typical lives based on inclusion and full participation.

We reject segregation. Services should be provided in community settings. With adequate support, people with IDD live successfully in their local communities. No one should be forced to live in a facility based on disability or lack of choice.

OUR TOP PRIORITIES

Protect existing services!

Ensure people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities can stay in the community and access the support they need to thrive. Cuts cause trauma, expensive recovery costs, and unnecessary hospitalization. Institutional care is more than triple the cost of community care. We need:

- Safe, affordable, and accessible housing
- Reliable access to food & healthcare
- Tailored supports to live in the community, including residential support, personal care; supported employment and community inclusion; respite; life skills and other essential services

Each service is essential. Combined, they hold lives together.

Implement a plan to build up and phase out!

We have years of data and experience downsizing institutions. Just last year, DSHS moved 89 people from Residential Habilitation Centers into the community. We know how to make these transitions work. What we need is action to build out comprehensive community services, available to people with IDD already in the community and those trying to return.

The work to build up community services while phasing out RHCs must be intentional, center on best practice, and uphold the civil and human rights of people with IDD. We must continue investing in services like Residential Complex Case Needs so everyone can be supported in their community.

SERVICES, RIGHTS, COMMUNITY

The CAC also supports the following initiatives of our members. The ranking is based on a priority survey.

- Establish progressive revenue for community services
- Protect immigrant and refugee families with IDD from discrimination
- Protect and preserve supported living funding
- End isolation and reduce restraint of students
- Eliminate DSHS' Community Protection Program
- Reduce red tape to strengthen services for people with IDD
- Address systemic anti-Black discrimination
- Preserve and make available IDD historical records
- Update requirements to allow individuals with two or more years of direct-care experience to qualify as IDD life skills coaches
- Lower age for employment & community inclusion services
- Make yearly training requirements for relative providers voluntary and paid

Protect our services. Protect our rights. Protect community living.

Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities