



Increase Community Supports

People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) feel a sense of empowerment when they are able to get out in their communities. Many can't do this alone or they need assistance while being out. We are asking legislators to increase community supports so that people don't feel isolated or restricted.

Problem:

During the pandemic, many people with DD who have Community Inclusion or Community Engagement in their DDA plan, lost their services because the agencies providing the services can't get paid by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid using virtual services, it has to be in person.

In March, we believed that COVID-19 would be a quick pandemic, if most people stayed home. Yet, many months later, we are still restricted. The DD community has been hit especially hard. We still cannot go places outside of where our families will be willing to take us. Since there is not enough room for people to be six feet apart from one another, adult family home clients can only bring one technical support person into the house and if we understand the rules, we can go out in the community with our families. Pre-COVID, we used to be able to have our families over and have a meal that could be shared with them. Humans need physical contact, not just video check-ins. This is critical to restoring confidence in people who have been isolated in the pandemic from the ones we are sending to the people who receive services.

Solution:

During COVID, we need to make sure that people have the supports they need to participate in activities virtually.

For more information please contact:

Self Advocates In Leadership sail@arcwa.org or (360) 357-5596, ext. 3

