



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

*Proclamation*

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities manifest during the developmental years of life, before the person reaches the age of 22, and is lifelong in duration, resulting in the continuing need for a variety of services designed to support full inclusion in community life; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately one to two percent of the United States population has an intellectual or developmental disability, which translates to approximately 133,000 people in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services contracts with nearly 200 partner organizations, agencies and individuals throughout the State to provide services to approximately 25,000 adult residents with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 30,000 State residents work as direct-support professionals for individuals with developmental disabilities who are living at home or in group homes, supervised apartments or developmental centers, as well as providing support to individuals in employment and day programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services has created a new Supports Program, with both federal and State funding contributions, to enhance the resources available to individuals with developmental disabilities who are living at home; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, New Jersey has taken vital steps on key issues affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by: eliminating offensive language in statutes and regulations; creating a Central Registry of Offenders against individuals with developmental disabilities; declaring New Jersey an "Employment First" State, promoting employment in the general workforce as the preferred, post-education outcome for people with developmental disabilities; transitioning services for children with developmental disabilities to the Department of Children and Families; facilitating a Special Needs Housing Partnership for community residential program development; launching an Office on Autism within the Division of Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, our Administration continues to advance initiatives to expand community-based services, promote disability employment options and increase community living opportunities for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

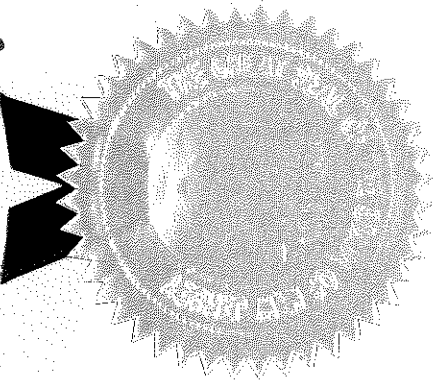
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Christie, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2017

AS

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this tenth day of February in the year two thousand seventeen, the two hundred forty-first year of the Independence of the United States.

*Chris Christie*  
Lt. GOVERNOR

*Barack Obama*  
GOVERNOR