



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities manifest during the developmental years of life, before the age of 22, and are 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 hundreds of partner organizations, agencies and individuals throughout the state to provide services to approximately 27,000 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 intellectual and 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, through its Division of Developmental Disabilities, offers services through the Community Care Program and the Supports Program, which operate with both federal and state funding contributions, to enhance the resources available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's system of services and supports has grown and evolved through its partnership with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members; community service providers that deliver the direct support necessary for our State's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive; and the efforts of disability advocates, related professionals, and our New Jersey State Legislators and Leadership who keep the needs of the disability community at the forefront of our State's concerns; and

WHEREAS, our Administration will advance initiatives to promote quality services and supports, and increase community living and employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2018

AS

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of New Jersey.



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


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR