



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *developmental disabilities manifest during the formative 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 two percent of the United States population has an intellectual or developmental disability, which translates to approximately 178,000 children and adults in New Jersey; and*

WHEREAS, *the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, and Children and Families work with hundreds of partner organizations, agencies and individuals throughout the state to provide services to New Jersey 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 for adults age 21 and older 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, *the Department of Children and Families, through its Division of the Children's System of Care, offers services for children and youth up to age 21 through an array of in-community, residential treatment and family support services, which operate with both federal and state funding contributions, to enhance the resources available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; 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, their family members, and the community service providers that deliver the direct support necessary for our State's residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive; and*

WHEREAS, *the efforts of disability advocates, related professionals, and our New Jersey State legislators and leadership continue to 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, for persons of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 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 2023
AS
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



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


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR