



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 two percent of the United States population has an intellectual or developmental disability; 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 38,000 direct-support professionals and self-directed employees provide support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are living independently, with their family, 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, 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-based service providers that deliver the direct support necessary for our state's citizens 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 service and support and increase community living and employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2026  
AS  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



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

*Dak G. Caldwell*

Lt. GOVERNOR

*Mikie Sherrill*

GOVERNOR