



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Include *All* Abilities

FACT SHEET: CLOSING THE GAP

AT A GLANCE

- 6.5 million people in the U.S. have an intellectual or developmental disability, including autism.
- 50,000 people with autism graduate from high school each year in the U.S.
- A disability can be a barrier to education, a meaningful job and financial security.
- There are not enough suitable or financially affordable homes – and families have little support.
- Every person with a disability should be included in the community and able to live their faith.
- Innovative thinking and more resources are needed today for tomorrow’s needs.
- Bethesda is a national leader in providing services and advocacy with developmental disabilities. Help us make the world a better place by including people of all abilities.

INFOGRAPHICS AVAILABLE

For publication-ready infographics featuring key statistics, go to IncludeAllAbilities.com and look under “Media.” See samples on page 2.



ISSUE 1: LACK OF HOUSING OPTIONS

FACTS

- According to The Arc, **nearly 1 million people** in the U.S. with intellectual or developmental disabilities live with an aging caregiver, often a parent, putting their future at risk.
- Additionally, **4.8 million people** with disabilities only receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and there’s no housing market in the U.S. where SSI alone will pay for a safe, decent rental unit, according to the Technical Assistance Collaborative.
- Per the Case for Inclusion 2019, **424,000** people are on a waiting list for state Medicaid-funded home and community services.
- More homes than ever have smart technology, but its use is limited for people with disabilities.

WHAT BETHESDA DOES

- Provides innovative arrangements (Shared Living, Supported Living)
- Builds Cornerstone Village to integrate people with disabilities with active adults 55+
- Pilots smart home technology in several states

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Advocate
- Volunteer in a group home
- Learn about Cornerstone Village
- Explore smart home technology

ISSUE 2 : EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION / TRAINING

FACTS

- **Four out of five** adults with developmental disabilities do not have a paid job in the community, according to Delivering Jobs.
- According to Health Research Funding, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities who have looked for work in the last year is **more than 33%**.
- This comes at a time when most organizations are hungry for talent – but their leadership frequently will simply not consider someone with a disability, fearing the cost of accommodation or the potential that they will not be able to perform.

WHAT BETHESDA DOES

- Offers job coaching multiple states as well as Bethesda College at Concordia University of Wisconsin, a two-year education and training program

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Provide a job
- Encourage someone with a disability to apply for a job
- Advocate
- Learn about Bethesda College

ISSUE 3: COMMUNITY AND FAITH

FACTS

- Faith is important to more than **8 in 10 people** with disabilities, but only about **10 percent** of faith communities offer congregation-wide disability awareness programs, according to the Collaborative on Faith & Disabilities. That leaves people with disabilities often feeling unwelcome and isolated.

WHAT BETHESDA DOES

- Employs a network of staff and volunteers to help ensure people with disabilities are consistently welcomed

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Launch a disability ministry
- Volunteer with Bethesda
- Simply say hello at church

ISSUE 4: DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP) TURNOVER

FACTS

- There's a **45% turnover rate** among the nation's 4 million direct support professionals – individuals who provide hands-on, in-home support for people with disabilities. The turnover is largely the result of low pay tied to state Medicaid reimbursement levels.

WHAT BETHESDA DOES

- Advocates one-on-one with influential state legislators to increase reimbursement for provided supports

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Advocate for higher reimbursement
- Consider Bethesda for a DSP career

INFOGRAPHICS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT INCLUDEALLABILITIES.COM – UNDER MEDIA

