



**Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities**

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

DEFENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT
Questions about the campaign.
Included updates

Why does the campaign include stories about deinstitutionalization?

The rejection of the institutionalization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays represented a shift from the medical model of disability searching for a cure to a social model which focuses on people's inherent dignity and entitlement rights, which protect that dignity.

The deinstitutionalization movement is our origin story, explaining why and how the movement began, indicating how far we have come, and providing a guide for moving onward.

Is there a future for home and community-based services?

Over a relatively short period of time, individuals have made life altering achievements. But progress can be fragile and impermanent. In response, it is our responsibility to show NJ citizenry the value of the expansion of the social contract to include individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays, a previously excluded group. Our goal is to convince the public that investment creates something greater for individuals and for each other. Is there a future? There ought to be.

One year in, what have you learned from this campaign?

The I/DD community is defending a way of living. In cooperation with state and federal governments, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) has created conditions in which individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the freedom to be themselves.

Woven into most of the stories is the impact on parents and families. HCBS is lifeline for them. We were pleasantly surprised to learn the positive impact HCBS has had on family dynamics.

There was a mutual sense of urgency among the parents to share their stories with other parents, to give them inspiration and hope. Their freely offered empathy and attention to others they don't know was very moving and courageous. They provided an emotional core to many of the stories.

(over)

We found great inspiration from the gifted, devoted and talented workforce with whom we had the pleasure of working with on this project, both on and mostly off camera.

In the fog of Hidden and Home and recent tragedies, it is easy to lose sight of the power we still possess. Our agencies got people out of institutions, house them, care for them, acclimate them to the community, guide them, help them secure employment, work with them to achieve their goals – this is a story of great ambition and repeated success.

~~December 2025~~ July 2026