



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

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

DEFENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT

Beginning in calendar year 2027, the potential erosion of Medicaid and SNAP funding because of federal legislation, “OBBA,” risks the relatively recent and hard-won achievements made by individuals with I/DD.

The goal of ABCD’s campaign, *Defending the Achievement*, is to maintain government investment in home and community-based services, health care, and safety net services, for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays.

Breaking Through the Imaginary Fourth Wall: Eliminating Segregation

The fourth wall is the imaginary wall which separates performers and audience, so that the audience sees through this “wall”, but the performers behave as if they cannot see the audience. Community inclusion is the opportunity to live and exist as a contributing member of the community regardless of disability. Organizations play a crucial role in supporting community inclusion for I/DD clients.

In this video we are introduced to a program which uses theatre as a means by which to experience community inclusion. What makes this production unique is that the individuals with I/DD are cast in some of the lead and supporting roles, not as the “third tree from the right.” Both individuals with and without disabilities can experience the transformative process of embodying a character and working as peers.

Watch this video and see how theatre and community inclusion partner to dismantle barriers above and between us.

Stories like these exist only because of the vision, commitment, support and partnership of federal and state government which began with the DD Act and Education for all Handicapped Children Act in 1975, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act of 1980, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Olmstead Decision of 1999 and increased Medicaid funding for home and community-based services (HCBS). Despite these achievements, Medicaid and other resources remain forever in governments’ crosshairs. For people with IDD, Medicaid is not simply a health care program, but the system that enables them to live in the community.

DEFEND OUR SOCIETY’S ACHIEVEMENTS

No cuts to IDD service and support.

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