



Congressional Action Needed to Support Community Living

Fiscal priorities

For decades, our laws have affirmed that every person regardless of ability should live fully in their community and not experience discrimination because of their disability. The stars of *Intelligent Lives* show just how successful people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can be with federally funded supports. However, the President's 2020 Budget proposes severe cuts that threaten to take away the supports that allow community inclusion and integration for people with I/DD.

Congress should reject the proposed drastic cuts to services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities including Medicaid, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) Programs, Social Services Block Grant, affordable housing, and education. We urge Congress to increase funding for these programs so all Americans with I/DD can have the opportunity to thrive with appropriate supports, just like Naomie, Naieer and Micah.

Employment

For most people, work provides a pathway to engage our society's economic and social institutions. Yet the rate of employment of people with disabilities continues to lag significantly behind those without disabilities. For some workers, like Naomie, sheltered workshop employment can cheat them out of minimum wages and participating in work that they truly enjoy. Congress needs to pass the bipartisan Transformation to Competitive Employment Act, which provides states, service providers, subminimum wage certificate holders, and other agencies with the resources to help workers with disabilities transition into competitive, integrated employment.

Education

All students benefit from quality public education that includes trained teachers, safe school environments, and access to post-secondary education, which leads to employment, independent living, and success. The stars of *Intelligent Lives* all value public education as a means to achieve their fullest life by participating in integrated classroom settings and attending college courses designed to accommodate their educational needs. It is time for Congress to pass legislation to fully fund the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* programs, include Transition and Post-Secondary Programs for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (TIPSIDD) in any reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act*, and pass the *Keeping All Students Safe Act* to prohibit dangerous seclusion and restraint in schools.

This document was created by The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN). These programs are authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (PL 106-402), and work to ensure people with disabilities have access to all aspects of society, including an education, health care, careers, and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency. For more information contact Erin Pranglely at epranglely@nacdd.org; Rylin Rodgers at rrogers@aucd.org; or Eric Buehlmann at eric.buehlmann@ndrn.org. For more information visit <http://intelligentlives.org>.