



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, more than 127,000 New Yorkers live with an intellectual or developmental disability – a severe physical or mental impairment that slows their learning, limits their mobility and inhibits their expression; and

Whereas, people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities benefit from quality individualized supports and services provided through a participatory system built upon the combined efforts of parents, family members, nonprofit providers, public- and private-sector employees whose commitment and compassion have moved the service system forward; and

Whereas, individuals who have intellectual or developmental disabilities have the right to live, work, and participate in the communities of their choice in the most integrated settings possible; and

Whereas, New York has established an Employment First Commission, tasked with creating an Employment First policy for New York, which makes competitive, integrated employment the first option when considering supports and services for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, New York believes that individuals who have intellectual or developmental disabilities should be protected from abuse and neglect; and

Whereas, parents, family members, self advocates, volunteers, staff, government officials, community members, voluntary not-for-profit providers, and others have helped transform New York's system of care into one that provides person-centered, efficient, and effective services that attain measurable outcomes for people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities; and

Whereas, as we reflect on how new and expanded opportunities will mean those with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live richer lives, New Yorkers join to recognize the unique contributions they make to our society, applaud their achievements, and support this month-long observance that encourages their continued progress as members of society;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2015 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day
of March in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Walter J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor