

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ASSISTANCE AND BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2000

PL 106-402

OCTOBER 30, 2000



PURPOSE OF THE ACT

To assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs.

Values in the DD Act

Individuals with developmental disabilities, including those with the most severe developmental disabilities, are capable of self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, but often require the provision of community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance;

**Communities are enriched by
the full and active
participation and
contributions of individuals
with developmental
disabilities and their families.**

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged, and any assistance to such individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of such individuals.

Specific efforts must be made to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds and their families enjoy increased and meaningful opportunities to access and use community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance available to other individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Services, supports, and other assistance should be provided in a manner that demonstrates respect for individual dignity, personal preferences, and cultural differences.

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decision makers regarding the services and supports they receive, including where they choose to live from available options, and play decision making roles in policies and programs that affect their lives.

Findings in the Act

Disability is a natural part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to live independently, to exert control over their own lives, and to fully participate in and contribute to their own communities through full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of United States society;