



## Slow Progress: Building the Support Systems for Community Living in the US



The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.



**Studies and stories tell us  
that living in the community  
is good for people with  
intellectual disabilities**



- independence,
- Adjusting to change with fewer problems with behaviors
- increases in choice making,
- increases in participating in community activities,
- increases in relationships with people without disabilities and
- increases in employment and earnings.

Advocacy efforts initiated by families, self advocates and disability organizations have moved the services and supports towards the community.





Many states are forced to make financial decisions about how to spend their \$\$ and often have to limit the optional services.



That results in many states that have waiting lists for community services for persons with I/DD.

Families must struggle to care for their adult dependent children with little support or services

OR

choose institutional care.



In 1999, The US Supreme Court in the Olmstead case stated loud and clear that it is a violation of the civil rights of Americans with disabilities to require a person to be institutionalized in order to receive necessary disability supports and services, if these services are more appropriately provided in the community.



Because of these two women's spirit of determination and the advocates who supported them...

now States are required to provide community based services for person with disabilities who are otherwise entitled to institutional services



Twelve (12) States have closed all their institutions. More than 20 State institutions have closed since 1995.

Most states are moving people from large institutions to community living arrangements, but institutionalization still remains a common practice.



### Average Daily Populations of State Institutions for Persons with ID/DD 1880-2008

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Many States are still  
keeping institutions open:  
WHY?



- Lack of leadership
- Lack of responsiveness to the requests or demands of persons with disabilities
- lack of compliance with federal law
- Families members of persons living in the institutions believe that their loved one receives better care in the institution
- Unions whose members work in institutions fight to keep them open

Many organizations in the United States are working together to close all of our state funded institutions.



Some private institutions are downsizing with the ideal of having no more than 5 people living together in one home.

New funding is available –  
Money Follows the People  
Housing Vouchers



## **There's more work to be done!**

Supporting Self  
Advocates  
Changing attitudes  
Changing laws  
Building Community  
Capacity



## **Launch of Inclusion International's Global Study on de- institutionalization**



For more information

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