

# **National findings and goal**

The Developmental Disabilities  
Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of  
2000 (PL 106-402)

# DD Act – the layout

- Has 3 Titles
  - Title 1 . Programs for individuals with developmental disabilities
  - Title 2 . Family Support
  - Title 3 . Program for Direct Support Workers who assist individuals with developmental disabilities

# Title 1

- Has 5 Subtitles
  - Subtitle A . General Provisions
  - Subtitle B . Federal Assistance to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities
  - Subtitle C . Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights
  - Subtitle D . National Network of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service
  - Subtitle E . Projects of National Significance

# Subtitle A – General Provisions

- This subtitle includes findings, purposes, and policy for the entire Act.
- Congress finds that 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 and choice** over their own lives, and to **fully participate** in and **contribute** to their communities through **full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of United States society**;

# Congress recognizes....

- that some disabilities will continue indefinitely;
- People with developmental disabilities often encounter discrimination in the provision of critical services
- People with developmental disabilities are at greater risk for abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation and violation of legal and human rights

# Congress recognizes...

- People with developmental disabilities and their families do not have access to appropriate support and services and remain un-served or underserved
- People with developmental disabilities often need lifelong community services, individualized supports . most effective when provided in a coordinated manner

# Congress finds....

- That there is a need to ensure that services, supports and other assistance is provided in a cultural competent manner and that people of racial and ethnic minority backgrounds are fully included in all activities provided under this title.
- Family members, friends and members of the community are important in enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities . especially when they are provided the necessary community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance

# Congress finds...

- A large percentage of people with developmental disabilities live with their families or in their own homes
- Many service delivery systems and communities are not prepared to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities who are living at home with parents aged 60+ and who serve as the primary caregiver of the adults

# Congress finds....

- People are waiting for services in almost every State
- The public needs to be made more aware of the capabilities and competencies of people with developmental disabilities especially when the individual is provided with necessary services, supports and assistance

# Congress finds...

- There is an increasing needs for a well trained workforce that is able to provide services, supports and other forms of direct assistance required to enable people with developmental disabilities to carry out activities (living, learning, working and participating in all aspects of community life).
- Need greater effort to recruit individuals from minority backgrounds into professions serving people with developmental disabilities and their families.

# Goal of the Nation

o include a goal of providing individuals with developmental disabilities with the **information, skills, opportunities and support** to o

- make informed choices and decisions about their lives
- Live in homes and communities where people with developmental disabilities can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens

# Goal continued...

- Pursue meaningful and productive lives
- Contribute to their families, communities, and States and the Nation
- Have interdependent friendships and relationships with other persons
- Live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their legal and human rights

# Goal continued...

- Achieve full integration and inclusion into society, in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities of each individuals
- ã ..there is a need to evaluate the access to community living options by people with developmental disabilities and the effects of those options on people with developmental disabilities

# Reference

- The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. 42 USC 15001 (2000).