



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Report Shows State Efforts to Serve Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Have Stalled or Backslid**

*Case for Inclusion 2019 Ranks States on Policies and Programs that Encourage Employment and Community Living*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite significant progress over the past decade to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities integrate into the larger community, the ANCOR Foundation joins United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) on a new report that finds those efforts have stagnated or even moved backwards in recent years.

The *Case for Inclusion 2019*, which ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia on how well state programs, primarily Medicaid, serve those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), shows that where these individuals live has an enormous impact on their life trajectory. For example, a person born with Down syndrome in a high-ranked state such as Arizona (1st place) or Oregon (2nd place) is likely employed, earning a competitive wage and residing with roommates in a community setting. By contrast, in low-ranked states such as Texas (49th place) or Arkansas (50th place), the same individual is most often living in a large state institution with few or no opportunities to lead a full and independent life.

The report ranks states in five key areas critical to the inclusion, support and empowerment of I/DD Americans and their families: Promoting Independence, Promoting Productivity, Keeping Families Together, Serving Those in Need, and Tracking Health, Safety & Quality of Life.

In most areas, the report found that notable advances in the support of individuals with I/DD have stalled. For instance, just 29 states—two more than in the 2016 *Case for Inclusion*—report that at least 80 percent of these Americans are served in home-like settings, such as a family home, their own home or a small group setting. And decades after states embarked on efforts to close large state institutions that warehouse the intellectually and developmentally disabled, just 15 states have eliminated all such facilities, a number that is unchanged from 2016.

The report documented downward trends in two areas: (1) the number of people on waitlists for residential and community services, and (2) the number of individuals with I/DD working in competitive employment, meaning they work alongside people without disabilities at a market-driven wage. The *Case for Inclusion 2018* found the number of people on waiting lists for Home and Community-Based Services was up 75,000 from the 2016 report to almost 424,000. Just seven states, down from 10 in 2016, reported at least 33 percent of working-age individuals with I/DD working in competitive employment...

It is notable that during a period of polarization on many issues, policies that support individuals with I/DD have support from stakeholders across the political spectrum. For example, the 10 highest-ranked states are a political mix, including deep-blue Oregon and California and deep-red Kentucky and South Dakota. Armando Contreras, President & CEO of UCP, notes that “across the country we see efforts by state policymakers to enhance their approach to Medicaid services and supports and related programs for the I/DD population by making the best use of existing and scarce resources. Of course, additional funding to

keep pace with the diverse needs of this population would help, but new ideas and shared best practices from successful states have the potential to drive improvements even absent additional funding.”

The full *Case for Inclusion 2019* report, along with scorecards for each state and additional resources, can be downloaded at [caseforinclusion.org](https://caseforinclusion.org).

[Click here](#) for the full version of the release.



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