



• Fulfill the Promise

• FOR TENNESSEANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- Throughout Tennessee communities, people with developmental
 - disabilities other than mental retardation have almost no programs
 - to assist them. With your help, these Tennesseans can finally obtain
 - the services promised in 2000 when state laws were changed to
 - make people with developmental disabilities eligible. Now is the
 - time for Tennessee to **Fulfill the Promise!**
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Who Are People with Developmental Disabilities?

Data indicate that nearly 40,000 Tennesseans have developmental disabilities other than mental retardation. People with developmental disabilities live in every county and every community in Tennessee. Developmental disabilities take many forms, from mild to complex. Causes include cerebral palsy, mental retardation, autism, spina bifida, head and spinal cord injuries and other conditions occurring at birth or before age 22. People with developmental disabilities need different levels of assistance and can live fully integrated and productive lives in the community when provided appropriate support.

The Promise

- > In 2000, the Tennessee General Assembly revised Title 33 (mental health and mental retardation laws) which resulted in making people with any developmental disability eligible for services, effective March 2002.
- > Despite this change in Tennessee's laws, no funding has been allocated for these persons. Existing programs for persons with mental retardation have not been expanded to include persons with other developmental disabilities, nor have comparable programs been developed.
- > Tennessee does not take advantage of substantial funding available from the federal government for home and community-based services for people with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation.

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For more information visit: www.fulfillthepromise.org



Developmental Disabilities Task Force

- > In 2006, the General Assembly passed a bill authorizing the Division of Mental Retardation Services to establish a Developmental Disabilities Task Force to study the needs of Tennesseans who have a developmental disability other than mental retardation and to develop a plan for cost-effective home and community-based services.
- > A statewide needs assessment conducted by the Task Force resulted in 1,159 Tennesseans with developmental disabilities identifying the types of programs needed to support them in their homes and communities.
- > The Task Force completed its work in June 2007 and issued its report, “Fulfilling the Promise.”



How to Fulfill the Promise

The Developmental Disabilities Task Force report recommends that Tennessee:

- > Make Family Support services available to persons on the waiting list. During FY 2009, approximately 560 additional persons would be supported with an allocation of \$1,000,000.
- > Develop a Personal Supports program for persons with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation. During FY 2009, an allocation of \$1,350,000 would fund services for approximately 100 persons.
- > Develop a Medicaid Waiver program for persons with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation. The program application should be submitted to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services within a time frame that would allow implementation at the beginning of FY 2010.



For More Information, Contact:

Our Web site: www.fulfillthepromise.org

Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities: 615-532-6615

The Arc of Tennessee: 615-248-5878

Disability Law & Advocacy Center: 615-298-1080

United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee: 615-242-4091

Help Us Fulfill the Promise