



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, developmental disabilities manifest during the developmental years of life, before the age of 22, and are lifelong in duration, resulting in the continuing need for a variety of services designed to support full inclusion in community life; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately one to two percent of the United States population has an intellectual or developmental disability, which translates to approximately 133,000 children and adults in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, confronted with an unprecedented global COVID-19 pandemic, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the caregivers who support them have demonstrated remarkable resilience; have adapted with grace to profound disruptions in the way they live, work, and participate in their communities; and have displayed creativity and tenacity as they forge new paths toward their goals and dreams; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, and Children and Families work with hundreds of partner organizations, agencies and individuals throughout the state to provide services to New Jersey residents with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 30,000 state residents work as direct-support professionals for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are living at home or in group homes, supervised apartments or developmental centers, as well as providing support to individuals in employment and day programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services, through its Division of Developmental Disabilities, offers services for adults age 21 and older through the Community Care Program and the Supports Program, which operate with both federal and state funding contributions, to enhance the resources available to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's system of services and supports has grown and evolved through its partnership with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, their family members, and the community service providers that deliver the direct support necessary for our State's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of disability advocates, related professionals, and our New Jersey State Legislators and Leadership continue to keep the needs of the disability community at the forefront of our State's concerns; and

WHEREAS, our Administration will advance initiatives to promote quality services and supports, and increase community living and employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

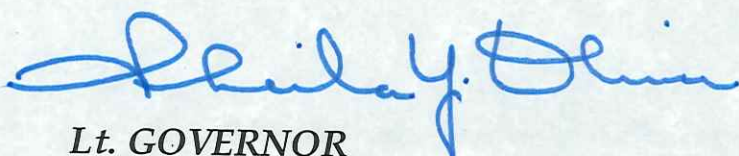
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

**MARCH 2021
AS
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this tenth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR