

WE ALL BELONG

Disability Advocates Applaud Governor Gregoire's Commitment to Reform Services for People with Developmental Disabilities

“Not only does the Governor believe many citizens with developmental disabilities would be better served in communities than in habilitation centers, she also recognizes that reforming how we care for these citizens will free up badly needed funds to extend better care for more clients.”

—Statement from Governor Gregoire's Policy Brief,
“Reforming how we care for Washingtonians with developmental disabilities” December 2009

People who believe in community inclusion have been saying it for years, and now evidence from a recent legislative study and a clear policy statement by Governor Gregoire should leave no doubt: **Children and adults with developmental disabilities belong in our communities, neighborhoods and schools.**

We support Governor Gregoire's steps to:

Increase quality community services to alleviate the burden of out-of-home placement on individuals, families and the state;

Ensure a stable system of care for people moving out of state-run Residential Habilitation Centers; and

Move residents from two of the state's five Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC) to new residential settings in the community or to one of the remaining RHCs.

We think it important our state legislature accept the Governor's proposals to:

Create 60 new community-based residential placements.

Expand behavioral management intervention services to more children and their families to prevent out-of-home placements.

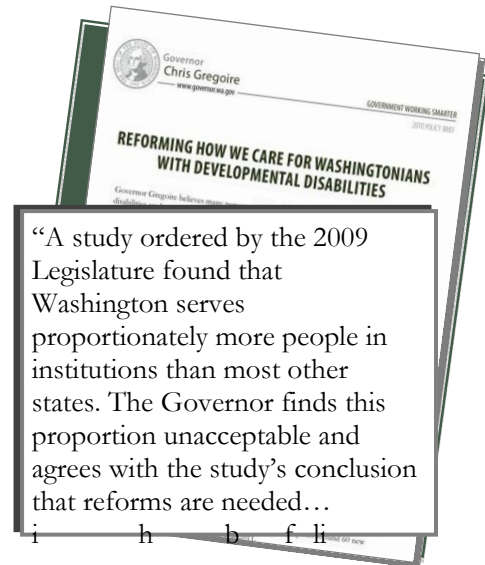
Create three new State-Operated Living Alternative facilities specifically for serving children.

Create two community-based respite beds for each of the six regions, beginning next year.

Add 24 placements for Expanded Community Services and 13 placements for Community Protection Services.

Add eight new positions to provide transition planning, resource management, case management and quality assurance services to help institutional residents relocate to community living.

It's time for our state to make a firm commitment to use its resources to ensure children and adults with developmental disabilities can live where We All Belong in our local communities, neighborhoods and schools.



For more information, visit the website www.weallbelong.org