

# THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Community Inclusion



We asked participants in our national housing decision-making study about how important being included in the community is to them. The study included 726 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and family members. Here's what we found!

## COMMUNITY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE

People with I/DD said being part of the community was very important to them. Having time in the community was one of the favorite things people with I/DD said about where they lived. However, people did not always have *real* community inclusion in their current home:

- People described the community as a place they “went to” or “visited,” not a place they belonged.
- Sometimes, people were not allowed to choose where they went in the community.
- Sometimes, people had to go everywhere as a group.

People with I/DD have the right to real community inclusion. Community is not just a place someone goes to, but “a place people have a stake in, a place people feel they belong.”<sup>1</sup>

## HOW WE CAN HELP PEOPLE BE MORE INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITY

- Increase funding to promote quality, community-based housing services.
- Work with community members to create more adequate, accessible, and integrated housing options for people with I/DD.
- Make it easier for people with I/DD to receive services and supports in their own homes, in family homes, and in shared living settings.
- Make community-based supports more available to people with higher support needs and people with both I/DD and mental health disabilities.
- Increase wages and training for direct support staff to help address turnover.
- Make sure services and supports are person-centered and directed by what that person wants.
- Empower people with I/DD to exercise their rights. Work with people with I/DD to stop any rights violations that are occurring.
- Recognize that people with I/DD are the experts about their own lives and that their choices must be treated with respect.

<sup>1</sup> Hingsburger, D. (2017). *Community as it is: Meeting the real challenge*. Paper presented at the CQL Conference: Blueprint for person-centered practices, Indianapolis.

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*This information is from *There's No Place Like Home: A National Study of How People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Choose Where to Live*. The technical report can be accessed at: [futureplanning.thearc.org/housing/](http://futureplanning.thearc.org/housing/).*