

# Creating a Developmental Disabilities Waiver

Tennessee must develop services for people with developmental disabilities (DD) comparable to those for people with intellectual disability (ID).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop and implement a **NEEDS ASSESSMENT** for people with developmental disabilities other than intellectual disability.
- Create an **ENROLLMENT PLAN** for people with developmental disabilities to obtain services through the proposed Employment and Community First CHOICES waivers.
- Develop **SEAMLESS TRANSITION SERVICES** for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities exiting high schools and pursuing work and/or postsecondary opportunities.
- Require state departments to **SHARE DATA AND COORDINATE PROGRAMS** for people with developmental disabilities.

## DATA

- Approximately 40,000 Tennesseans have a developmental disability other than intellectual disability and have no access to Home & Community Based Services.
- Over 4,000 students with developmental disabilities will exit Tennessee schools over the next 4 years with **no process in place to bridge the gap from school to adult life.**

## BACKGROUND

- Despite creation of a Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) in 2011, Tennessee has not developed community based services for people with developmental disabilities, other than intellectual disabilities. This commitment to citizens of the state remains unfulfilled.
- Tennesseans with developmental disabilities are people with cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, brain injury, spinal cord injuries and other lifelong conditions occurring at birth or before the age of 22.
- A variety of community based services exist for people with intellectual disability. People with other disabilities currently depend on aging parents and nursing facilities for long term support.
- In 2016, TennCare and DIDD expect to implement new Employment and Community First Medicaid Waivers to support people with all types of developmental disabilities, emphasizing the support of students transitioning from school to work and/or postsecondary opportunities.

# FULFILL THE PROMISE

