



A Home of Their Own — **NOT** Nursing Homes for people with developmental disabilities

Facts First

- It is not appropriate to compare average costs between nursing homes and community services since nursing home costs do not include habilitation services that are required by federal law for people with developmental disabilities.
- Nursing homes are institutions. Louisiana has been successful in moving away from having people with developmental disabilities rely on institutions for services.

What Legislators Can Do

Ensure that Louisiana does not use nursing homes to institutionalize individuals with developmental disabilities.

Why is this Important?

The Nursing Home Reform Amendments to the Medicaid Act require that prior to admission into a nursing home an individual must be screened to determine whether their needs could be met in the community. Individuals with developmental disabilities who are placed in nursing facilities must be provided specialized services and active treatment, designed to enable the individual to function as independently and with as much self determination as possible and to prevent regression and loss of abilities.

Both the ADA and Louisiana Law (R.S. 28:476) establish that people with disabilities are entitled to live in the least restrictive environment in their

own community and in normal residential surroundings and should not be excluded because of their disabilities.

States that have inappropriately confined people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to nursing facilities have been challenged with class action lawsuits for ineffective levels of care.