



Washington State Community Advocacy Coalition 2026 Federal Issue Paper



Home Is Where Inclusion Happens: The Power of Home and Community-Based Services

In the United States, approximately 6 million people with disabilities rely on [Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\)](#) through Medicaid services in order to live in their community.

People who receive HCBS services in their community of choice have been shown to have **improved** their **physical and mental health** over those who are institutionalized.

In the last 100 years, the United States has seen a shift away from providing services to those with disabilities in restrictive settings to providing **individualized person-centered services** in the community.

- **HCBS** provides the following services: personal care assistance, home health care, employment and adult day programs, respite care, transportation services, and home modifications.
- [Olmstead ruling](#): This landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision affirms that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to receive state services in the community rather than in institutions.
- Within the United States, there are **17 States** and the **District of Columbia** that have [shut down all of their developmental disability institutions](#).
- We believe that people who receive services in their own home or in a community residential setting are best supported to live a full, productive life in their community.

Additional Resources:

- [The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(NACDD\) | look at community based long term supports and services](#)
- [Disability Policy Seminar Fact Sheets](#)
- [Disability Policy Seminar | Health Care Fact Sheet](#)
- [Informing Families | Medicaid Matters](#)
- [Association of University Centers on Disabilities | Healthcare](#)
- [Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center \(SARTAC\) | Resources](#)
- [NAMDD Understanding HCBS](#)



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