



We are the Going Home Coalition.

We are a network of self-advocates, family members, educators, legislators, activists, and community leaders who believe the era of institutionalizing people with disabilities is over.

We believe:

- That everyone, no matter what challenges they may face in life, deserves the opportunity and means to live a full life in the community.
- That by segregating people with intellectual and developmental disabilities away in state institutions, we do a disservice to our loved ones and ourselves.
- That people shouldn't be limited to a small isolated life just because they're different.

We believe diversity makes us stronger.

Sadly, policy in the state of Illinois doesn't share these beliefs. With seven (7) state-run institutions still in operation, we have the third highest institutional ID/DD population in the country. While we still house thousands in institutions, more than a third of states don't have any ID/DD institutions at all.

It's time we stand up for our friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

In this packet you'll find an introduction to the facts that define this issue. You'll see the overwhelming evidence in favor of institutional closure. You'll discover resources to help you continue the conversation. You'll meet people who have resided in institutions whose lives have been transformed for the better by having a home.

We understand this material can be difficult. We only ask that you keep a compassionate heart and an open mind, and consider a world where everyone is able to enjoy life.

We believe it's time for everyone to come home.

We hope you'll join us.