



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities (DD) in community life, as well as awareness of the barriers in connecting to the communities in which they live; and*

*WHEREAS, developmental and intellectual disabilities affect millions nationwide, and individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities continue to encounter stigma and discrimination due to misinformation and prejudice; and*

*WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 2.5% to 3% or approximately 120,000 Alabamians are born with a developmental disability, which creates substantial barriers in participating in the community and exhibiting their full potential, despite individuals with developmental disabilities having the capacity to contribute to society in valuable ways; and*

*WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) and the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities are dedicated to working with allies, service providers and partners who recognize the value of every person with a disability. Alabama residents who experience developmental or intellectual disabilities add quality to our communities and the state; and*

*WHEREAS, the ADMH and partners assist all individuals to live the lives they choose across all life domains: health care, employment, education, recreation and relationships. The ADMH addresses the continuing education of communities, policymakers, healthcare providers and the public toward full and positive inclusion in community life for persons with disabilities; and*

*WHEREAS, the ADMH continues to provide three waiver services focused on promoting rights, encouraging choice, maintaining family relationships and encouraging community inclusion and competitive employment, which are of utmost importance to an individual's health, well-being and happiness, by providing the needed supports;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 2024, as*

# Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

*in the state of Alabama.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor