



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "We're Here All Year," which emphasizes the community and opportunities for individuals with developmental. The campaign raises awareness of the lives of people with developmental disabilities (DD) and reminds everyone they are valuable members of our communities and deserve full participation in all aspects of life; and*

*WHEREAS, developmental and intellectual disabilities affect millions of persons 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% of Alabamians are born with a developmental disability, which creates substantial barriers in participating in the community and exhibiting their full potential. Despite challenges, individuals with developmental disabilities 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 individual with a disability. Alabamians with developmental or intellectual disabilities add quality to our communities and the state; and*

*WHEREAS, the ADMH continues to provide three waiver services, including the Intellectual Disabilities (ID) waiver, Living at Home (LAF) waiver and the Community Waiver Program (CWP), focused on protecting rights, encouraging choice, maintaining family relationships and promoting community inclusion and competitive employment, which are of utmost importance to an individual's health, wellbeing and happiness; 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;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 2025, 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor

