



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "WE'RE HERE. THEN. NOW. ALWAYS," which emphasizes the community and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. 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 percent of Alabamians are born with a developmental disability, which creates substantial barriers to 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

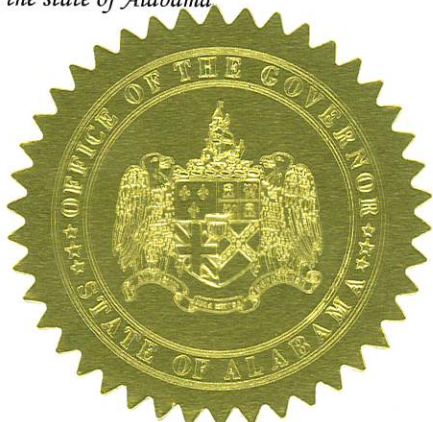
WHEREAS, the ADMH continues to provide three waiver services, including the Intellectual Disabilities (ID) waiver, Living at Home (LAH) waiver and the Community Waiver Program (CWP), focused on protecting rights, encouraging choice, maintaining family relationships and promoting community inclusion and 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 2026, 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 19th day of March 2026.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor