

# Facts and Statistics

## Developmental Disabilities

### Highlights

- People with disabilities are waiting 5 to 8 years for Medicaid waiver services, which are federally-funded, community-based services that are an alternative to institutional care.
- In Texas, there are 23, 598 people waiting for Home and Community Based Services, 47% of whom are receiving no services while waiting.
- There are 10, 500 individuals on the Community Living Assistance Support Services (CLASS) waiting list. In Travis County, more than 1, 380 individuals are waiting for community-based services.

### Why focus on people with a DD?

- Based on conservative estimates, about 8% of the U.S. population has a developmental disability; this translates to 1.8 million Texans and 70, 000 Travis County residents. According to the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, there are approximately 605, 000 Texans with Mental Retardation, which is 3% of the state's population. Of this number, 24, 000 reside in Travis County.
- Over 30% of adults with mental retardation live in households with incomes below the poverty level—approximately three times the rate in the general population. 60% of the recipients of Social Security Income (SSI) have a DD.

### Housing

- High poverty rates, low employment, and a lack of available residential services make public assistance programs an essential component of the supports provided to people with a DD.
- The waiting list for public housing units in Travis County that meets the needs of residents with disabilities is longer than five years, and the wait for public housing for elderly residents is even longer.

### Healthcare

- In 2002, 12% of Medicaid recipients in Texas had disabilities, representing a total of 36% of Texas' Medicaid expenditures.

### Employment

- Only 50% of people with disabilities are employed, compared to almost 85% of those without a disability. Additionally, those with disabilities make 25% less than workers.

### Personal Safety

- Both children and adults with disabilities are at a higher risk of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse than those without a disability. Children with disabilities are twice as likely to experience physical and sexual abuse than children without disabilities; 17% of all abused children have disabilities. Adults with developmental disabilities are four to ten times more likely to become victims of physical and sexual assault than are other adults.

### What is recommended for our community?

- Decrease the number of people with DD on waiting lists in Travis county area.
- Increase employment and volunteer options for persons with a DD.
- Increase opportunities for persons with a DD to participate in inclusive social, recreational, and meaningful activities within their communities.
- Increase resources and response time for people with a DD who are in crisis.
- Increase support and resources available for people with a DD and for their families, and affordable and accessible care, specialized assistance.
- Improve consistency, availability, and quality of data within the community.

Community Action Network, November 2002

