

## New Hampshire Values & the New Hampshire Advantage As They Relate to Our Support System For Citizens with Developmental Disabilities

- **Personal and Family Responsibility** – roughly 8 of 10 Adults with disabilities continue to live at home with family well beyond the age of 18. Some parents are still the primary, hands-on caregivers for their “children” well into their own senior years. Siblings and other extended family are often part of the core family support network.
- **Economic Sensibility** – Families continue to offer selfless contributions of free hours of direct support, free housing, free food, free transportation, free private health and dental care, and more for many years after their “children” reach adulthood – saving the State *hundreds of millions of dollars*. In return, families need to depend on caring, well-trained, professional staff to support and assist their loved one so they can confidently work each day and earn the means to support the family.
- **Local Control** – New Hampshire’s 10 Area Agencies are private, non-profit corporations, not arms of State government. Each is governed by volunteer Boards of Directors, the majority of whom are people who have disabilities or their family members. All decisions for the agency are made at the local level by those who utilize the system. Board members see to it that available funds are allocated wisely and see that the bulk of that funding goes to direct supports for those they serve.
- **Employment for New Hampshire’s Citizens** – The Area Agencies and Vendor Agencies privately employ hundreds of New Hampshire citizens. These are skilled jobs supporting some of New Hampshire’s most vulnerable people. Many citizens with disabilities are employed themselves, due to being assisted by these well-trained professionals.
- **New Hampshire Leadership** – Beginning with our being the first state in the nation to completely close its institution for warehousing people with disabilities, New Hampshire continues to be a leader in the field. According to the The Case for Inclusion 2016 NH ranks 3rd in the country for overall satisfaction, quality and outcomes while being considered fiscally responsible. The extraordinarily high return for dollars spent is due directly to the dedication and long-term commitment of families combined with the thoughtful

# Hot Topics

oversight of the community-governed Area Agencies as well as the focused advocacy of people working with policy makers to educate and implement best practices.

- **Public/Private Partnerships** – The Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) under the NH DHHS partners with the privately run Area Agencies and Vendor Agencies to offer citizens with disabilities true choice, individualized planning, professional supports, and assistance in living quality lives in their own communities.
- **Regular, Ongoing Monitoring of Quality Outcomes** – The legislatively created NH Developmental Disabilities & Acquired Brain Disorders Quality Council meets monthly to monitor, analyze, and oversee the service delivery system. Council membership consists of representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including families and self-advocates. The Council makes recommendations to the BDS and legislature regarding our Medicaid Waivers and Administrative Rules as well as national best practices in an effort to keep NH's position as a leader for developmental services.

*Prepared the Policy Outreach Committee of Community Crossroads, Inc.*

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*Source:*

*[The Case for Inclusion 2016: An Analysis of Medicaid for Americans with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities](http://cfi.ucp.org/highlights/)*

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