

THE COMMUNITY IMPERATIVE: A 2020 VISION

1. Human Rights

- All people have basic human rights. These rights must be protected for all people, regardless of a person's abilities, characteristics, or limitations
- All people are born into the communities of their family, culture, and country, so

All people have the right to be a welcomed and valued member of the community in which they were born or in which they choose to live.

2. Community

- People with disabilities should be able to fully participate in the life of their community, and be included as valued members, neighbors, and friends
- All people regardless of ability have unique gifts that they can share with their neighbors and friends in the community, so

All community members should help and support one another in order for everyone's life to flourish.

3. Education

- Students with disabilities have a right to be educated together with their peers
- All students need supports regardless of their abilities and are able to accept and enjoy the company of their peers, including those with disabilities, with whom they will create a new world, so

Education should provide supports that meet the needs of all students and help them to develop their own skills and capacity to contribute to inclusive communities.

4. Health Care

- All people with disabilities should have access to the health care they need, including long term supports and services
- People with disabilities should receive high quality and affordable health care that supports healthy life in their community, so

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The health care system must meet the individual needs of people with disabilities, and be high quality, accessible, and affordable for people with disabilities.

5. Employment and Economic Security

- All people with disabilities should receive the support they may need to find and maintain fulfilling employment that meets their needs for economic stability
- When people with disabilities are unable to be economically self-sustaining through employment, government programs should provide financial supports that do not create barriers for employment or economic security

All people with disabilities should be able to participate in the workforce to improve and sustain their economic security, advance their skills and interests, build relationships, and increase their independence; government programs should promote these same goals for people who are unable to be economically self-sustaining through work.

6. Supports and other Services

- All people with disabilities are able to choose what is best for them, with the help of individuals of their choosing
- People with disabilities should receive the services and supports they need without being forced into undesired situations or programs because no other options are available, so

All people with disabilities have the right to choose self-directed supports and services within their community that best support and advance their strengths and abilities and match their individual desires for happiness.

7. Community Accountability

- All children and adults with disabilities have the right to be free of neglect, mistreatment, restraint, seclusion, abuse, and discrimination whether in schools, service settings, or in public settings
- Communities and governments must support people with disabilities to be free of abuses and hold accountable all persons or entities who violate their rights, so

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All people with disabilities must be able to rely on government agencies and other community resources to help safeguard their personal rights to safety and protect against discrimination, regardless of settings where the abuses or violations occur.

THEREFORE,

All who endorse this statement pledge to work in the decade of the 2020s to achieve the vision of a world in which all people regardless of their abilities are valued and productive members of their community and are welcomed as neighbors and friends.