

VOR Policy and Position Statements

VOR's mission is to advocate for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). These rights include the right to appropriate services and residential options based on individual need and choice.

VOR supports individual and family participation in decision-making. “Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are the primary decisionmakers regarding the services and supports such individuals and their families receive, including regarding choosing where the individuals live from available options, and play decisionmaking roles in policies and programs that affect the lives of such individuals and their families.” [Developmental Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 15001(c)(3)(2000); see also, *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 119 S. Ct. 2176, 2187 (1999) (Nor is there any federal requirement that community-based treatment be imposed on patients who do not desire it”].

VOR supports both ICF/IID homes and quality community-based service options based on individual need. VOR advocates for the right of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to choose from a full array of high quality residential and other support options including own home, community-based, and large settings, such as licensed Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID).

VOR supports safe and appropriate quality care in the community. When federally-licensed specialized settings (e.g., [ICF/IID](#)) are closed, individuals with profound I/DD, multiple disabilities, serious medical problems, and behavior challenges are removed to “community-based” settings often with poorly trained staff and inadequate health and safety measures in place. Individuals with severe disabilities living at home or in other community settings often experience the same problems with poor care. By developing and promoting community care standards, VOR aims to address this widespread concern and avoid [predictable tragedies](#), as reported in the media, state audits and peer-reviewed studies.

VOR opposes the use of federal funds for any activity that would deny individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities benefits or rights available to them under federal law. Federal legal rights include those provided for in the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court *Olmstead* Decision (see also, [Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#), Section 504 (“no qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall be excluded from, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under” any program or activity that either receives Federal financial assistance or is conducted by any Executive agency”). This includes lawsuits, advocacy, publications and other activities that result in forcing residents of federally-licensed ICFs/IID from their homes or limit access to necessary specialized programs or residences in community settings.

VOR supports a full array of employment options, including sheltered workshops, supported employment, and competitive employment based on individual abilities. People with intellectual or development disabilities (I/DD), have a right to choose where they work and where they live.

VOR supports guardianship for individuals who cannot speak for themselves in some or all aspects of their lives, when in the best interests of the individual as determined by a court of law. VOR opposes efforts to prevent access to guardianship by families and friends of people with I/DD. VOR opposes efforts to remove guardianship from people with I/DD based on disagreements over the type or quality of care with government agencies, service providers, or advocates.

VOR supports a full array of education options for students with disabilities, from mainstreaming to special education settings, as required by federal law. VOR supports individualized education based on the needs of each student with disabilities and their parents.