



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, a disability is defined as any impaired condition of the body or mind that makes it more difficult for the person to do certain activities and to interact with the world around them without assistance; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 28.7% of adults in the United States, or more than one in four, have a disability; and

WHEREAS, 25% of adults in New Jersey, or one in four, have a disability; and

WHEREAS, about 13% of children in the United States, ages five to 17, have a disability, with intellectual and developmental challenges being the most common; and

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, to ensure the civil rights and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the ADA has expanded opportunities for individuals with disabilities by reducing accessibility barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, on the 36th anniversary of the ADA, we celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principles of equality and inclusion, and recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is the home to the Division of Disability Services, which serves as the gateway to New Jersey's resources for adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Disability Services has implemented the Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant program, to improve health outcomes and promote access and engagement statewide; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services is also home to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities, all of which serve as supports and resources for people with disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families' Division of the Children's System of Care provides services to youth under the age of 21 with emotional and mental health care needs and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education ensures that students with disabilities are served in and by their schools through its Office of Special Education; and

WHEREAS, The ADA protects people with disabilities from discrimination in education, employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and access to state and local government programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the ADA enforces respect and inclusion for all people with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mikie Sherrill, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby acknowledge:

THE 36th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-ninth day of June in the year two thousand twenty-six, the two hundred fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States.

Dale G. Cohen
Lt. GOVERNOR

Mikie Sherrill
GOVERNOR