

Community Inclusion:

Community inclusion provides the opportunity for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to live, work and contribute to the community. It builds a bridge and for people with Developmental Disabilities to be included in the community and gives them the opportunity to contribute and be engaged in everyday life. Being part of the community allows persons with Developmental disabilities to build relationships and friendships in real and meaningful ways.

Community Inclusion also gives the Community at large the opportunity to learn and have a better understanding of people with Developmental Disabilities. It provides the opportunity for people in the Community to build relationships, employ and engage with people with developmental disabilities on a daily basis. It builds Community Capacity and educates people outside the profession of Community Disability Services.

Nine Domains for Measuring Community Inclusion;

- 1. Education:** *Formal education: Kindergarten all the way to Post Secondary Education through formal Institutions and informal education received through community organizations in the community.*
- 2. Employment:** *Providing services to a business for remuneration, this also includes self employment; owning a business and providing a service to the Community.*
- 3. Housing:** *Living in a Community Home, Supported Living situation, semi supported or independently, keeping in mind affordability, accessibility and choice.*
- 4. Transportation:** *This encompasses Private, Public and Accessible modes of transportation available to all persons in the community.*
- 5. Relationships:** *Having interactions with people in the community whom are not family, friends and paid staff persons.*
- 6. Volunteerism:** *Unpaid work positions, to give back to the Community and to benefit others.*
- 7. Accessibility:** *Community Locations in which are accessible to everyone. I.e. (Wheel chair Accessible buildings, Ramps, Automatic Doors. etc)*
- 8. Physical Presence:** *Persons having opportunities to participate in the same environments as others regardless of abilities or lack thereof.*
- 9. Equality:** *Persons have equal opportunity to participate in activities of interest, based on equal standards for rewards and other contributions.*

