

Enriching the Lives of People with Developmental Disabilities

FACTS



Project Independence...

- ♥ Has been serving Orange County's adults with developmental disabilities for more than **50 years**.
- ♥ Has **more than 150 employees, volunteers and interns**, all dedicated to providing the best possible services to our clients.
- ♥ Has the most individual employment placements in California through our Supported Employment Program.

Did You Know?



MORE THAN 7 MILLION

people in the U.S. have an intellectual or developmental disability.



38.1%

of working-age people with disabilities ages 16–64 were employed in 2025.

Compared with 74.8% of people without disabilities.



29.1% → 0.7%

A remarkable shift toward community living.

In 1967, 29.1% of U.S. adults with IDD lived in large state-run institutions. By 2021, just 0.7% did.

MYTH vs. FACT

Let's Build a More Inclusive Community

People with developmental disabilities are unique individuals with talents, goals and so much to offer. ♥



Myth:

People with developmental disabilities are all the same.

Fact:

People with developmental disabilities are unique individuals with different strengths, personalities, interests and support needs.



Myth:

People with developmental disabilities cannot work.

Fact:

Given the right support, many people with developmental disabilities are successful, dedicated employees. They bring valuable skills, reliability and enthusiasm to the workplace.



Myth:

People with developmental disabilities cannot live independently.

Fact:

With appropriate supports, many people with developmental disabilities live independently, make their own choices and actively participate in their communities.



Myth:

Developmental disabilities only affect children.

Fact:

Developmental disabilities are lifelong. People continue to learn, grow and contribute throughout their lives as valued members of our community.



Myth:

People with developmental disabilities are a burden on society.

Fact:

People with developmental disabilities enrich our communities as students, employees, neighbors, friends and family members. An inclusive community is stronger for everyone.

Inclusion Strengthens Our Community! ♥