Easy Read Edition

The Cycle of Institutions

Part 2: The Cycle of Institutions
Words to Know in Part 2
Cycle

When something happens over and over again. The cycle of institutions is when institutions keep closing and opening again.
In this toolkit, we talk about the cycle of institutions.

A **cycle** is when something happens over and over again.

The cycle of institutions is when institutions keep closing and opening again.

The cycle of institutions has happened many times in the U.S.

Here is what the cycle of institutions looks like:
Step 1:

New institutions get made.

People say they aren’t like the old institutions.

They say they aren’t institutions.

They say these new places will actually help people with disabilities.

But they look and act a lot like the old institutions.
Step 2:

People with disabilities get sent to the new institutions.

They don’t actually get help.

They don’t get to go to school.

They don’t learn how to do jobs.

They don’t learn how to live on their own.
They start getting hurt in the new institutions.

Just like the old ones!
Step 3:

People start to notice how bad the new institutions are.

Maybe a government worker visits one

Or a newspaper writes an article.

Or a report shows up on TV.

People say “Something needs to be done about these institutions!”
Step 4:

People try to think of a new way to help people with disabilities.

They can’t think of a way to help us live in the community.

So they come up with a new kind of institution.

Repeat Step 1.
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