



Easy Read Edition

Institutions: **The Old, The New, And What** **We Should Do**

Part 2: Institutions and Living in the Community

Words to Know in Part 2



Long-term supports and services (LTSS)

Services that help people with disabilities live our everyday lives. Some kinds of LTSS are job coaches and in-home helpers.



Institutions

Places where a lot of disabled people live. People living in institutions did not decide to live there. They usually can't leave when they want to.



Home and community-based services (HCBS)

Getting LTSS in the community.

Institutions and Living in the Community



Some people with disabilities need **long-term services and supports (LTSS)**.

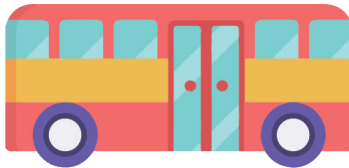


LTSS are services that help people with disabilities live our everyday lives.

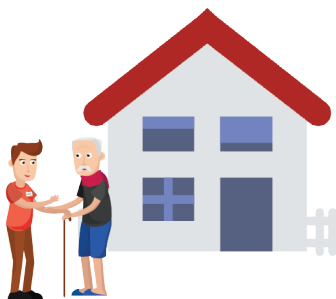
Some kinds of LTSS are:



Job coaches



Transportation



An in-home helper



Some people with disabilities get LTSS in **institutions**.



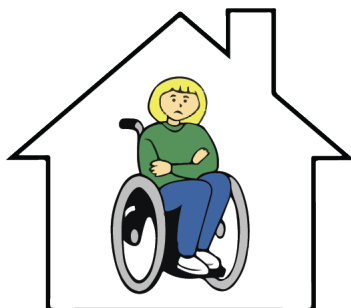
Institutions are places where a lot of people with disabilities live.



People living in institutions did not decide to live there.



They were usually put there by someone else.



Institutions are not run by the people living there.



Institutions are run by the people who work there.



People living in institutions usually can't leave when they want to.



They usually can't spend their free time how they want to.



Other people with disabilities get LTSS in their community.



They get LTSS in their own homes.



Getting LTSS in the community is also called **home and community-based services**.



Some people call them “**HCBS**” for short.



People with disabilities have the right to live in the community.



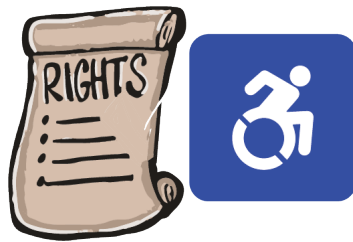
We want to live in the community.



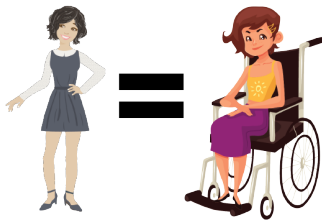
We don't want to live in institutions.



ASAN is a group of autistic people.



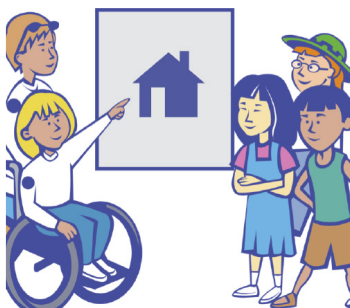
We work on disability rights.



We believe people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else.



One important right ASAN fights for is the right to live in the community.

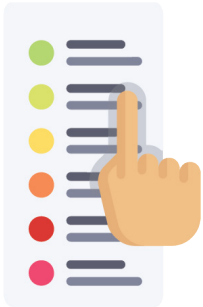


ASAN talked with some people with disabilities.



We talked about what living in the community means to us.

We decided that living in the community means things like:



- Making your own choices.



- Going out when you want to, and going where you want to.



- Living in the same places as everyone else.



- Getting the help you need to meet your goals.



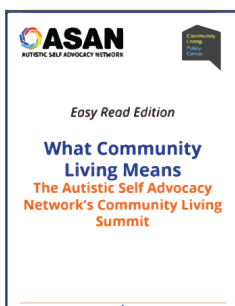
- Getting to choose who helps you, and what help you get.



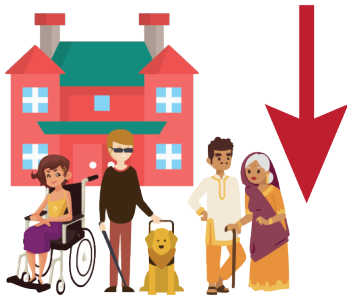
- Meeting new people, and being with family and friends.



- Getting treated like an adult.



You can learn more by reading [What Does "Living in the Community" Mean?](#)



Today, less people with disabilities live in institutions than before.



Lots of institutions closed in the last 50 years.



More people with disabilities moved into the community.



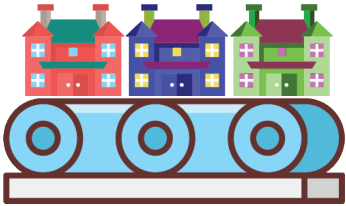
That's great!



But *everyone* should live in the community.



Some people still live in institutions.



And new kinds of institutions are still getting made.



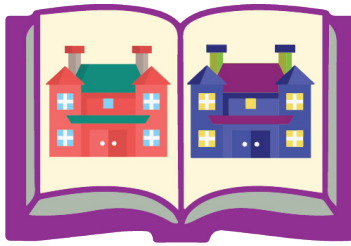
So we still have work to do.



We need to show others why the community is good.



We need to show others why institutions are bad.



So it's important to learn about institutions.



This toolkit will talk about the history of institutions.



It will show why living in the community is better.

Support for this toolkit was provided by The Community Living Policy Center at Brandeis University. Funding for this center is provided by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (grant number 90RTCP0004). However, the contents of this brief do not necessarily represent the policy of the federal government.