



Easy Read Edition

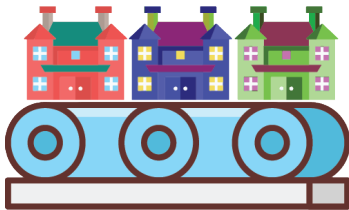
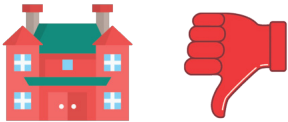
Institutions: **The Old, The New, and What** **We Should Do**

Part 7: New Institutions

New Institutions



We know that living in the community is better than institutions.



But people keep building new institutions.



They don't call them institutions.



They might call them group homes.



Or, they call them "intentional communities".



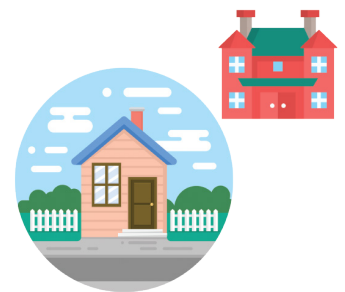
They try and say these new places aren't like the old institutions.



But they are still institutions.



The new institutions might look like living in the community.



They might be in a regular house.



They might look like every other neighborhood.



But only disabled people live there.



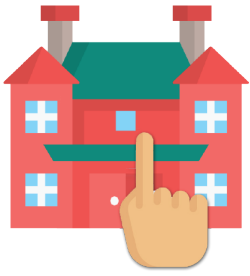
They don't get to be around non-disabled people.



They don't get to decide what to do each day.



They don't get to go outside their neighborhood.



Some institutions say that people with disabilities choose to live there.



But usually, the people with disabilities didn't get good choices.



They didn't get to learn about living in the community.



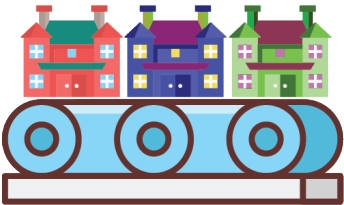
They got told they couldn't live in the community.



They didn't really get a choice.



Just like when they got sent to the old institutions.



People keep making these new institutions.



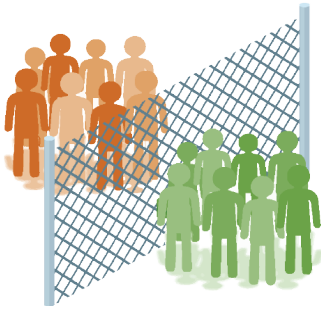
That's because they think we need institutions.



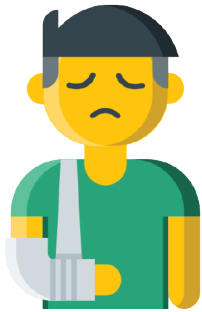
They think people with disabilities need to live in places that are “just for us”.



But that is the same reason the old institutions got made.



The old institutions kept us away from other people.



They made it easier for us to get hurt.



They took away our freedom.



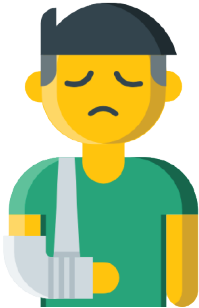
New institutions do the same thing.



We know the history of institutions.



We know that institutions kept hurting us for many years.



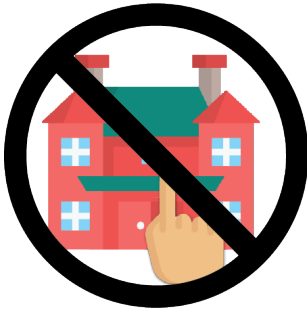
We know that institutions keep hurting us today.



We know that studies say we should live in the community.



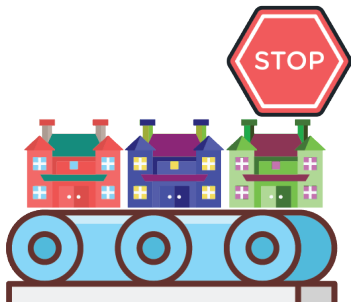
We also know one very important thing.



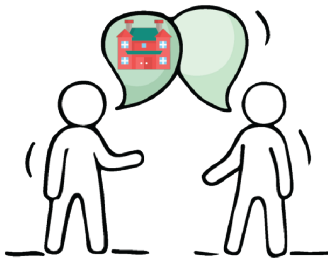
We know that people with disabilities don't want to live in institutions.



We know that we want to live in the community.



We need to make sure new institutions stop getting made.



We need to make sure people know about new institutions.



People should know that new institutions are just like the old ones.

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.