

Plain Language Advocacy and Public Policy Glossary

ABLE Account: a savings account that allows for individuals with disabilities to save up to \$100,000 without losing their other government benefits.



Advocacy: supporting or recommending certain policies and causes.



Alzheimer's Disease: a brain disease that affects memory, thinking, and behavior.



Appropriations: decisions by Congress about how the government's money will be spent for the year.



Asset limitation: a limit to the amount of money an individual can have in an account.



Beneficiary: a person who benefits from receiving payments or services from a program.



Bi-partisan: when the two political parties, Democrats and Republicans, work together on a bill.



Caucus: members of the same political party or with the same interests form a group to make policy decisions.



Chromosome: carries genetic information that passes on from one generation to another.



Competitive Integrated Employment: full or part-time work for at least minimum wage, employees with disabilities work alongside employees without disabilities and have the same opportunities and benefits.



Congressional Task Force: a group of members of Congress that work together in support of a specific cause or issue.



Department of Education: a federal government agency that works on education.



Department of Health and Human Services: a federal government agency that works on health and wellness.



Department of Labor: a federal government agency that works on laws to make sure workers are in fair, safe, and healthy working conditions.



Diagnosis: when doctors use an examination to find out the causes of a condition.



Direct Support Professionals: people whose job is to support individuals with disabilities to live more independently.



Discrimination: when a person is treated unfairly because they are part of a particular group.



Eligibility: the requirements that must be met to receive certain government services or benefits like Social Security and Medicaid.



Evidence-Based: Making decisions by using research and studies about the topic.



Filibuster: an attempt by a Senator to stop or slow down a bill by talking about it for a long time or adding new rules to prevent the bill from being voted on.



Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS):

services that help people with disabilities live in their community by assisting with daily needs.



Initiatives: actions and strategies that work towards a goal.



Infrastructure: the basic structures needed for things to work. Some examples include buildings, roads, and electrical grids.



Law enforcement professionals: people who work to protect public safety and make sure people follow the laws.



Legislation: policies that different governments are working on.



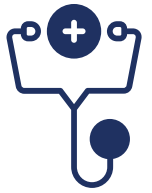
Long-term Supports and Services: services that help people with disabilities as they get older.



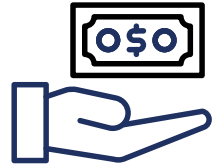
Marriage Penalty: when two individuals who are both SSI beneficiaries marry, they receive less SSI benefits as a couple than they would as individuals.



Medicaid: a government program that helps cover medical and living costs for individual with disabilities.



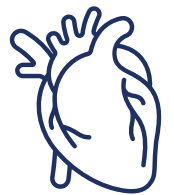
Minimum Wage: the lowest amount of money an employee can legally be paid for their job.



National Institutes of Health (NIH): a medical research center that is part of the US government.



Organ Transplant: removing an organ from a donor and giving it to someone who needs an organ.



Post-natal: after birth.



Poverty: not having enough money to support yourself.



Pre-natal: before birth.



Provision: part of a law.



Reauthorization: After some time, passing the same law again to update it and so that people keep following the law.



Regulation: instructions from a federal or state agency on how a law should be carried out.



Supplemental Security Income (SSI): monthly payments to people with disabilities and older adults.



Sheltered workshop: a workplace for people with disabilities separate from people without disabilities.



Physical Restraint: stopping an individual from moving their body using physical actions.



Public policy: laws that affect the public.



Retirement: stop working at one's job.



Revenues: the amount of money a city, county, state, territory, or country government brings in, usually as taxes.



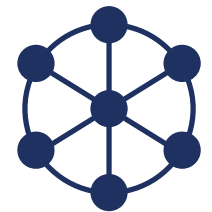
Seclusion: the state of being isolated or kept away from others.



Subminimum wage: being paid less than the minimum wage.



Surplus: extra or left-over money.



Universal Design: designing a space that is accessible and used by everyone.

Work Incentives: programs from the Social Security Administration that allow people with disabilities to work and receive their SSI monthly payments. The program can differ between states and territories.

