

# Everyone Out! Of Institutional Settings

[Georgia's community and economy are stronger when everyone is a part.]

For too long, people with disabilities have been shut away in institutional settings. But people aren't objects, and they should not be warehoused as such.



## Where are children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities being stored across Georgia?



Forty-year-old nursing facility resident Nick shared, "Quite honestly, I think these facilities should not exist...everyone is grouped together like animals."  
— Royston, GA

# 21

Children are stored at Parkwood Developmental Center, an intermediate care facility

# 11

Young Adults are stored in skilled nursing facilities

# 217

Adults are stored in DBHDD's state hospital system

## Why we should move EVERYONE OUT!



Decades of research have shown the institutionalization of children and youth under age 22 results in profound developmental delays across nearly all domains, including cognitive, social, and physical development  
(Beren & Nelson, 2015).



Community living is cheaper than institutional living.



Georgia can stop pumping millions into propping up its crumbling state hospital system.



People living in the community contribute to the local economy through hiring caregivers, holding jobs and shopping at local businesses.



### What Georgia Needs:

- To close its state hospital system and *safely transition all residents into the community*
- To ensure that before the state pays to have a child housed in an institutional setting, *a parent or guardian must have affirmatively rejected adequate supports for keeping the child in the home*

Let's move people out of storage and into a life well lived in the community.

Questions? Want to help? Contact GCDD's Public Policy Director Dawn Alford at 404.805.9741 or dawn.alford@gcdd.ga.gov or GCDD's Planning & Policy Development Specialist Hanna Rosenfeld at 404.275.8119 or hanna.rosenfeld@gcdd.ga.gov.

