

**Founding
Members:**

- The Arc of Virginia
- Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

2025 E. Main Street, Suite 107
Richmond, Virginia 23223
804-649-8481

Virginia Alliance for Community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2009

Contact: Jamie Trosclair
804) 649-8481, ext. 101
jtrosclair@arcofva.org

“Community For All”: An Agenda for Virginia ***The Time for Action is Now***

The Virginia Alliance for Community today is asking candidates for statewide office and House of Delegates seats to adopt specific “Community for All” proposals as part of their campaign platforms. The Alliance also is calling for all state elected officials to make a firm commitment to reform Virginia’s system of supports for persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities during the 2010 legislative session.

The Alliance asks all candidates and elected officials to support the following priorities:

- ✓ Adopt definitive state public policy affirming that persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities can, should, and will be supported in community settings.
- ✓ Stop rebuilding state institutions, and shift resources to community care-based on individual plans for all current state Training Center residents.
- ✓ Adopt a clear state policy goal to eliminate the long wait lists for home and community-based Medicaid Waivers. The wait lists are now over 5,700 persons and growing rapidly.
- ✓ Require scarce state dollars to be leveraged through innovative approaches to acquiring community housing. Other states do so successfully. Why not Virginia?
- ✓ Support family members who work tirelessly day after day, year after year to provide support to their son, daughter, brother or sister with a disability in their home and local community. Their preference for community-based care is clear and their urgent needs cannot be ignored.

States that have moved forward to transition to community supports for persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities have done so because elected leaders stepped up and provided leadership to make “Community for All” a reality. Once it has committed to a community system of supports, no state has ever gone back to segregated state institutions. Why? It’s clear. Individuals with disabilities and their families want community-based services.