

From: NACDD <media@nacdd.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 1:01 PM

Subject: How to Recognize an Institution



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

What Is an Institution?

The DOJ Opinion on Olmstead has raised concerns about whether more people with disabilities could be placed in **institutions** instead of receiving supports in their communities.

But what is an institution?

Institutions is a word that is broadly used to describe segregated settings. Institutions can have many different names in everyday conversation and public policy, including:

Plain Language

- Large facilities
- Residential facilities
- Care facilities
- Facility-based care
- Group facilities
- Congregate care settings
- Separate care settings
- Places that separate people from their communities

Policy/Legal Language

- Institutional settings
- Segregated settings
- Congregate settings
- Facility-based settings
- Residential institutions
- Institutional care
- Long-term care institutions
- Restrictive settings
- Non-community settings



Learn more about the Home Sweet Home campaign and how to get involved on [NACDD's website](#).

Explore Home Sweet Home



National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
Washington, D.C.