

Falling Through the Cracks

When people with developmental disabilities say they are “falling through the cracks,” it usually means they are being **overlooked, left out, or not getting the support they need**. A few common things come to mind:



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1. Services and Supports

- Some people cannot get disability services because the rules are too strict or confusing.
- Some people have to wait a long time for housing, job support, or personal care.
- Sometimes a person's needs do not fit into one program, so no one takes full responsibility.



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2. Communication and Information

- People are not always given information in ways they can understand. This makes it hard to know their rights or choices.
- Families or advocates may know how to get help, but people without that support can get lost in the system.



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3. Education and Employment

- Some students leave school without a plan for what to do as an adult.
- People who want to work may not get enough help from job coaches or benefit programs.



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4. Health and Safety

- Doctors or staff may not listen to their concerns or may think someone else will help.
- People may not know where to go for help if they face abuse, bullying, or discrimination.



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5. Belonging and Inclusion

- People may feel left out of community life when activities, rides, or supports are not accessible.
- Even in disability services, people with greater needs or less support can be overlooked.



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In short: “falling through the cracks” means **the system is failing to catch us**— and we are left without the help or inclusion we deserve.



Breakout Rooms

1. What does falling through the cracks mean to you?
2. Tell us a success story about a time when you spoke up and got what you needed.

