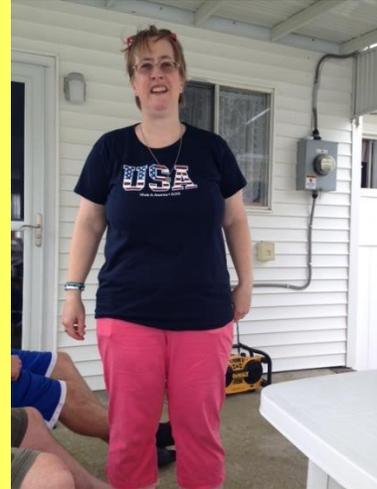


My name is Jennifer and I am 44 years old. I have an intellectual disability, but that is not the first thing you would say about me if you met me. You might say I am very outgoing, sociable, funny, talkative, and inquisitive. You might notice that I love music, Wheel of Fortune, computer games, Facebook and going out to eat! If you got to know me really well, you'd find out that I have supersonic hearing, I can mimic any animal sound, and have the memory of an elephant! As you can probably guess, I'm a lot of fun!



Even though I can do a lot on my own, I need help to get important things done. I struggle to problem solve and manage money. I need stimulation during the day to keep my body and brain healthy and happy. This got a lot more challenging seven years ago when my mom died. She had always been my biggest supporter and suddenly it was just my dad and I. Dad is 76 years old and has Parkinson's disease and congestive heart failure. He was in need of help to take care of himself, let alone me! As a family, we decided I would move from New Jersey to Virginia to stay with my sister and brother in law.

Since Waivers are state programs, I had to start everything over when I got to Virginia. My super sister got me on the waiting list for an ID Waiver right away, but I've already been waiting a long time and we think it may be much longer before I can get help. I love my family very much, but I need more than they can give me.



I really need an ID waiver because I want to live where there will be staff to help me and more opportunities for me to interact with other people. I'm social and want to learn some more independence skills. I'm a great candidate for the services the Waiver can provide! I had a panic attack recently and went into crisis respite to have my medications managed and during that time I realized that with the right supports, I was so happy and could see more potential for myself.

I want use my ID Waiver because I know that I can be more successful, more fulfilled and more productive in my life. I know it would make my dad really proud to see me living on my own for the first time ever. Isn't that the kind of life that everyone wants?

I would like you to remember that each of the more than 10,000 people on the Waiting List have a story and need your help.

You can change their futures, too! Please fund the waiting list for ID and DD Waivers AND SUPPORT WAIVER REFORM! End the wait, start a life.