



## Mental Health for All Team Talks About Eligibility Criteria



**Brendan:** Hello again! Ariel and Katie shared with us their list of our eligibility criteria. They said we needed to look for people who:

- have a developmental disability
- are at least 18 years old,
- live in a group home in the US.

I had questions—does it matter how many people live in the group home? Does it matter how long the person has lived in the group home?



**Micah:** I also wanted to know if we could include people who live with a roommate and have staff come and help them. We talked about what mattered for our study based on what we wanted to learn.

We agreed we wanted to talk to anyone who lived in a group home and had an individualized service plan. We also talked about making sure we reached out to group homes in neighborhoods with people from different racial and ethnic groups and group homes with older people.

**Brendan:** If we didn't know what to do in a situation, we knew we could ask Katie and Ariel for help. We also talked to some people who ended up not having the characteristics we were looking for. Once we talked to someone who had a brain injury from an accident when they were 37. Another time we talked to someone who was not an adult yet.

It worked out, because we knew what to do. We had to tell the person with a brain injury that the study was only for people with developmental disabilities. It felt hard to say no to them. We did share information about a brain injury support group since we knew it might help them.

**Micah:** They understood and thanked us for sharing information. The person who was too young was very disappointed. I explained why they can't be in our study, and I worked with Katie and Ariel to find a program they might be able to be in through their school. I also told them they could keep our information and reach out when they turn 18 in case we have any studies in the future they can be in.

**Brendan:** I also remember some people saying they didn't want to talk to someone they didn't know. They had a bad experience the last time they did research, and they didn't want to talk about their mental health. I was so happy we had practiced what to do in these types of situations!



**Katie:** We also noticed that we didn't have many people yet who used a communication device and we didn't have many people from our local refugee community. When we realized this, we developed relationships to find people with these characteristics

**Brendan:** We learned that you need to tell a lot of people about a study to find enough people. We always felt disappointed when someone said no to being in our study, but Katie and Ariel told us that meant we were doing a good job since people felt they could say no to us.