FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New NTG Education Initiative to Boost Inclusive Health for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia

Rockport, Maine – July 12, 2024 – The National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG) is pleased to announce it has been awarded a prestigious grant from Special Olympics as part of its Inclusive Health Initiative. This grant will support a groundbreaking effort to enhance the inclusion of adults with intellectual disabilities living with dementia, along with their caregivers, in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) new eight-year GUIDE Model innovations program.

Starting in September 2024, the NTG will launch “Changing Thinking! A National Initiative to Enhance Access to Critical Health Care and Supports for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia.” The NTG initiative will provide comprehensive education, information, technical assistance, and media resources to CMS GUIDE Participants and Navigators. The goal is to aid in ensuring that adults with intellectual disabilities and dementia, who are Medicare eligible, receive the enhanced dementia support services and diagnostics they need while strengthening inclusive health systems’ capacity.

“This initiative is a significant step forward in our mission to support adults with intellectual disabilities and dementia,” said Dr. Seth Keller, Co-President of NTG. “We are particularly excited about the opportunity to connect with health personnel and practitioners who play a crucial role in dementia diagnosis and aftercare.”

The new NTG project aligns with the Special Olympics’ Inclusive Health Initiative, underwritten by the Golisano Foundation in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Inclusive Health Initiative aims to address the physical, social, and emotional well-being of people with intellectual disabilities by promoting their inclusion in healthcare, health promotion, and disease prevention systems.

For more information regarding the NTG Changing Thinking! project contact: Helen Stepowany, Project Manager. Email: helenstepowany@the-ntg.org