**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Coalition Building, Public Education and Strategic Advocacy to End Commitment for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in D.C.

Fall 2014

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**The Client:** Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities is an independent, nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities have access to the supports and services they need to live full and meaningful lives in the places and ways they choose. Quality Trust’s vision is a community where everyone is respected and valued, belongs and contributes, and shapes his or her own present and future.

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**The Problem:** Quality Trust and other advocates hope to revitalize their effort to reform District law with the ultimate goal of ending commitment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Quality Trust identified that the current political climate provides significant opportunity for regulatory and policy change in furtherance of this goal, and that a strong coalition of community members is necessary for this change to occur. Quality Trust has begun the process of revitalizing a coalition, and asked CJP to assist in revitalizing a coalition in support of ending civil commitment by focusing on mobilizing parents of individuals with intellectual disabilities. This project built off the recommendations for ending civil commitment developed for Quality Trust by a CJP team in 2013.

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**The Outcome:** The CJP team created advocacy materials for Quality Trust to use in its efforts to mobilize parents and identified the steps Quality Trust could take to effectively mobilize parents and improve the likelihood of a bill passing once a bill to end commitment is introduced.

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