

## 1.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**1. We recognize the inherent value of every person.**

We recognize the value of every person. All people with disabilities share the same basic human rights as well as the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens. We will treat all people in a fair and equal way. This includes the right to self-identify their gender, sexual orientation, and sexuality.

**2. We believe that each person should be treated as an individual.**

We recognize that all people are unique. We all have both gifts and limitations. All people must be seen as people and must be treated with respect.

**3. We believe that friends and family are of utmost importance in the lives of the people whom we support.**

We are committed to making sure that all of the people we support have family and friends in their lives. Friends and family are an extremely important part of our lives. Friends add joy to people's lives, make their lives more satisfying, and make them less vulnerable.

**4. We believe that all people have a right to take part in, and belong in, their community.**

We are committed to working toward a community in which people are neither labeled nor excluded. We believe that all people have the right to belong in their community and that they should be valued for the gifts that they bring to their community.

**5. We believe that people with disabilities should be supported and encouraged to make decisions that affect their lives.**

We will encourage people to say or show what they want, make sure that they have choices, and respect those choices.

Our goals are to involve people with disabilities in making decisions and to make sure that they have enough information to make choices themselves. Making choices and decisions may lead to taking risks, to being responsible for those decisions, and to learning from those experiences. We will ensure that people who are vulnerable have family and friends involved in making decisions that affect their lives.

**6. BACI is a Disability Confident organization; every aspect of the organization is accessible to, and inclusive of, people with disabilities. This commitment is proactively supported in policy and practice.**