

Secondary Transition

Guide To Housing Options

For all youth and young adults transitioning into adulthood, having their own place to live is a major life goal. Unfortunately, individuals with disabilities are often denied the opportunity to choose where and with whom they can live, and the dream of owning a home is either rarely

considered or typically discouraged. This document provides information for youth and families regarding resources and supports that promote successful community housing options for individuals with disabilities.

In considering housing options, a number of guiding principles need to be considered. These include:

1. Housing options must be affordable.
2. Housing options should encourage community inclusion.
3. Housing options should be accessible .
4. Housing options should be developed to maintain and/or facilitate connections with needed services, supports, and programs.
5. Housing options should incorporate natural supports.
6. Housing options should take into consideration important life transitions.
7. Housing options should be designed to enhance safety.

BCNPHA Research Department. (2009). "Exploring Housing Options for People with Developmental Disabilities in BC," BC Non-Profit Housing Association. Vancouver BC.

Pennsylvania Housing Resources

- **Self-Determination Housing Project of PA**

717 East Lancaster Ave, Downingtown, PA 19335
Phone: 610-873-9595 or 877-550-7347
www.sdhp.org

The Self-Determination Housing Project of Pennsylvania, Inc. (SDHP) promotes self-determination in housing choice and control for people with disabilities in Pennsylvania. The goal of SDHP is to increase the stock of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing and to expand access to public and private housing programs for people with disabilities. The SDHP Website provides information and resources that empower people with disabilities in Pennsylvania to have control over their housing choices.

- **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency**

211 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-780-3800 or 1-800-822-1174
www.phfa.org

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is the commonwealth's leading provider of capital for affordable homes and apartments. Created to help enhance the quality and supply of affordable homes and apartments for older adults, persons of modest means, and persons with disabilities, the Agency operates home ownership programs, rental housing development initiatives, and a foreclosure prevention effort.

- **PA Housing Choices**

c/o Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc.
6 South Easton Road, Glenside, PA 19038
215-576-1150, ext. 2
www.pahousingchoices.org

Pennsylvania Housing Choices is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) to provide information about housing programs and opportunities for people with mental illness and co-occurring disorders.

- **Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation**

1004 West 9th Avenue, 1st Floor, King of Prussia, PA 19406
888-744-1938

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF), is a nonprofit organization that provides financing opportunities for older Pennsylvanians and people with disabilities, helping them to acquire assistive technology devices and services that improve the quality of their lives. These resources include low-interest loans and information regarding other funding resources.

- **PAHousingSearch.com**

www.pahousingsearch.com

PAHousingSearch.com is a free, online rental and homeownership service that links people with disabilities who need housing with the housing options throughout the commonwealth.

This web resource provides:

- Free searching and listing of rental housing and program-related homes for sale
- Detailed listings that can include pictures, maps, eligibility requirements (if applicable), and information about nearby amenities such as hospitals and schools
- Helpful tools, including an affordability calculator, rental checklist, and information about renters' rights and responsibilities

- 24/7 access online and support from a toll-free, bilingual call center, available at 1-877-428-8844, Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

- **The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities**

www.tucollaborative.org

The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities is a National Rehabilitation Research and Training Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). This website includes useful information about community participation and integration for individuals with psychiatric disabilities including access to over 150 journal articles, toolkits, monographs, and exemplary program descriptions focusing on key issues related to community living and integration.

National Housing Resources

- **Disability.gov: Independent Living and Full Participation in the Community**

www.disability.gov/community_life

This section of the www.Disability.gov website has information about personal assistance services and other programs that can help people live independently. This website also has links to resources on accessible sports, recreation and travel, as well as guidelines for making programs and facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

- **Center for Housing and New Community Economics (CHANCE)**

http://iod.unh.edu/Projects/archived/chance/about_CHANCE.aspx

The Center for Housing and New Community Economics (CHANCE) was established in March of 2001 at the University of New Hampshire. CHANCE's mission was to improve and increase access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing coordinated with, but separate from, personal assistance and supportive services. While this project is no longer active, this website provides relevant information and resources regarding the Community Living Exchange Collaborative and The National Home of Your Own Alliance. Included on this site are numerous publications, resources, and program web links related to accessing, owning, and maintaining a home for individuals with disabilities. Also included on this site is a link to a housing and disability listserv.

- **The Clearinghouse for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)**

www.hcbs.org

This site is designed to promote the development and expansion of home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities. The site includes a searchable index of over 2000 resources and tools for research, policy making, and program development. Also included on this site are tab directories, which include a glossary of terms, a state-by-state searchable index, and a calendar of national events.

- **Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC)**

www.tacinc.org

TAC is a national non-profit organization that advances proven solutions to the housing and community support needs of vulnerable, low-income people with significant and long-term disabilities. TAC's goal is to achieve sustainable public sector systems change through evidenced-based and promising approaches in mental health, substance abuse, human services, and affordable and permanent supportive housing. Since 1992, TAC has responded to hundreds of public agencies and non-profit organizations in virtually every state to help them improve the lives of vulnerable individuals and families.