

Are you a person who gets Developmental Disabilities Services?

There are different kinds of services for people who get Developmental Disabilities Services. Some people get support at work, some get support in the community, and some get support in their homes. The State wants to hear from people about their housing needs and supports.

What is Housing Support?

Housing support means the help someone needs to live as independently as they possibly can.

Some people live on their own, in apartments or in houses. Some people have staff come and help, others may not.

Some people live with their family or friends. Some people have staff come to their home and help, others may not.

Some people live with a Shared Living Provider, or “SLP”. A SLP is a person who also lives in the home. The SLP helps support the person in the home.

Some people live in a group home. Group homes have 3 or more people that live there. Group homes have staff that work but don’t live there.

Why is Housing Important?

We all need a place to live. We all want to feel safe and happy in our homes. Sometimes, people have to move from place to place and that can be hard. People need different kinds of help with housing. The State believes everyone wants to have a place they call “home”. We are hoping you can help us figure out how we can help you have a place to call home.

What is happening now?

The State is asking for people to speak up about their housing.

The State must follow rules for people who need help with housing. Here are some of the rules:

- A person must have choice in where they live.
- There must be different housing choices for people to choose from
- The person’s space or room must be their own. That means they can decorate it how they want.
- The person’s space or room must be private. That means they can lock the door if they want.
- The person’s space or room must have a **lease**. A lease is an agreement that gives the person the same housing rights as anyone else
- A person’s home cannot be like an **institution**. An institution is like a hospital. The place where you live cannot look like that or be like that
- A person’s home must be **accessible**. Accessible means you must be able to get inside. It’s like adding a wheelchair ramp for someone who needs a wheelchair or a keypad to unlock the door for someone who has a hard time using a key.
- A person’s home should be near the community. If it is not near the community, there must be transportation to help the person get into the community

How will the State help with housing?

The State is looking for more choices with housing. The State is getting money from the Federal Government to help with this. This is called “FMAP” money. The FMAP money will help the State connect people to housing resources. Resources means different things. When we say “housing resources” we mean services, supports, and funding that will help people get the housing they want or need. People want different types of housing. The State wants to hear from people about what they want. Some ideas for housing are:

- **Home and apartment living**—the State wants to support people to live in their own homes or apartments. The State cannot buy everyone a house and it cannot use Medicaid funds to pay rent. But the State **can** help connect people to housing resources and options.
- **Transitional homes** – transitional means a short amount of time. Transitional homes are places for people to stay when they are looking for a new place to live or when they are learning skills to live more independently
- **Peer living** – Peer living is like having a roommate. People who have peer living live with someone else and share an apartment or a home. The “peer” is a paid support person to help you with certain parts of your day or certain tasks.
- **Campus or Community living**—people live in their own apartments or rooms and share common areas. Sometimes there is a staff person who lives there also. The staff person is there to help when it is needed.
- **Group Living/Intentional Communities**—a group of people live together in a home or community of homes. People have their own rooms and there is staff there to help. The rules say you cannot have more than 6 people in one home. The rules about how many people can live in a home can be changed.

These are just a few ideas. The State wants to hear all the ideas so that there can be different choices for people.

How do I tell the State what I think about housing?

There are different ways you can tell the State what you think:

1. On the Internet

The housing forum will be on the internet. A link will be sent to your agency, to Green Mountain Self-Advocates, and it will also be posted to our website.

2. Email

You can email your thoughts and questions about housing using this email address:

AHS.DAILDDSDSOCPRegulations@vermont.gov

3. Write a Letter

You can ask questions and express your thoughts by writing a letter. Here is our address:

Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living

Developmental Disabilities Services Division

208 State Drive, HC2 South

Waterbury, VT 05671-2030

Where can I find out more information?

<https://ddsd.vermont.gov/programs/projects-initiatives/2022-update-regulations-and-system-care-plan>