

November 16, 2021

Housing options for adult Vermonters with developmental disabilities – question and comment themes.

Lack of Housing Options

The most common theme in the comments and questions focused on the lack of available housing options. One commenter noted that when approaching HC for housing support they were offered only one option (this was likely because other options at HC were full or because other options didn't meet the individual's needs). Within these comments some expressed reservations with the SLP model and suggested housing options where groups of friends could live together and support one another. At least one noted that while the move away from group facilities has been positive, we have gone too far and voluntary group living arrangements should be more widely considered.

Frustrations With Lack of Change

A number of commenters noted that housing issues have been a topic of discussion for several years and expressed frustration with the lack of concrete action toward the development of alternatives. Several suggested group housing structures based on existing models for older adults and other populations and urged immediate action.

Funding Questions

Several expressed frustrations both with the lack of funding to support housing as well as for the restrictions and regulations that limit the use of existing funding sources.

Staffing and Compensation

Some commented on staffing challenges at provider agencies and the need for a better funded system that can pay staff more in support of recruiting and retention.

Information

A few attendees asked for access to information on the number of people in need of housing support and the capacity and types of housing available.

Community Involvement/Connection

A few commenters suggested changes that include greater emphasis on community and not just connection to services. Suggestions around creating shared/group living options echoed this theme.

Housing Providers and Group Living

Some suggested inviting representatives from organizations like Cathedral Square, Heartbeat, and Yellow House for a discussion about creating communities where people could live with peers.

Loans for Home Renovation

At least one commenter asked about funding for families that need to make home renovations, suggesting low interest loans.

Section 8

A few questioners asked about rules surrounding the use of Section 8 vouchers.

Common Concerns

A few comments reflected/repeated some of the ideas that were shared in the discussion: 1. that aging parents were worried what will happen to their children after they were no longer able to provide care, and 2. that stability and safety need to be prioritized.

Information Shared

Website shared regarding Cape Cod Village: <https://www.capecodvillage.org/>