



Navigating Housing Options for Adults with Down Syndrome



Housing in a nutshell

Autism Housing Pathways



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Modified September 2024

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The current situation in a nutshell

- Most people have to find or create housing
- To qualify for housing through DDS:
 - IQ of 70 or below, AND
 - Not healthy or safe in the family home
- Some private pay housing models exist (costs range from \$1,000-\$6K/month)
- It is possible to cobble together housing with a combination of government supports and private funds – but the devil is in the (regulatory) details
- A more detailed explanation is at:
 - <https://autismhousingpathways.org/the-current-housing-situation/> and
 - <https://autismhousingpathways.org/thinking-about-housing-webinar-tuesday-march-17th/>

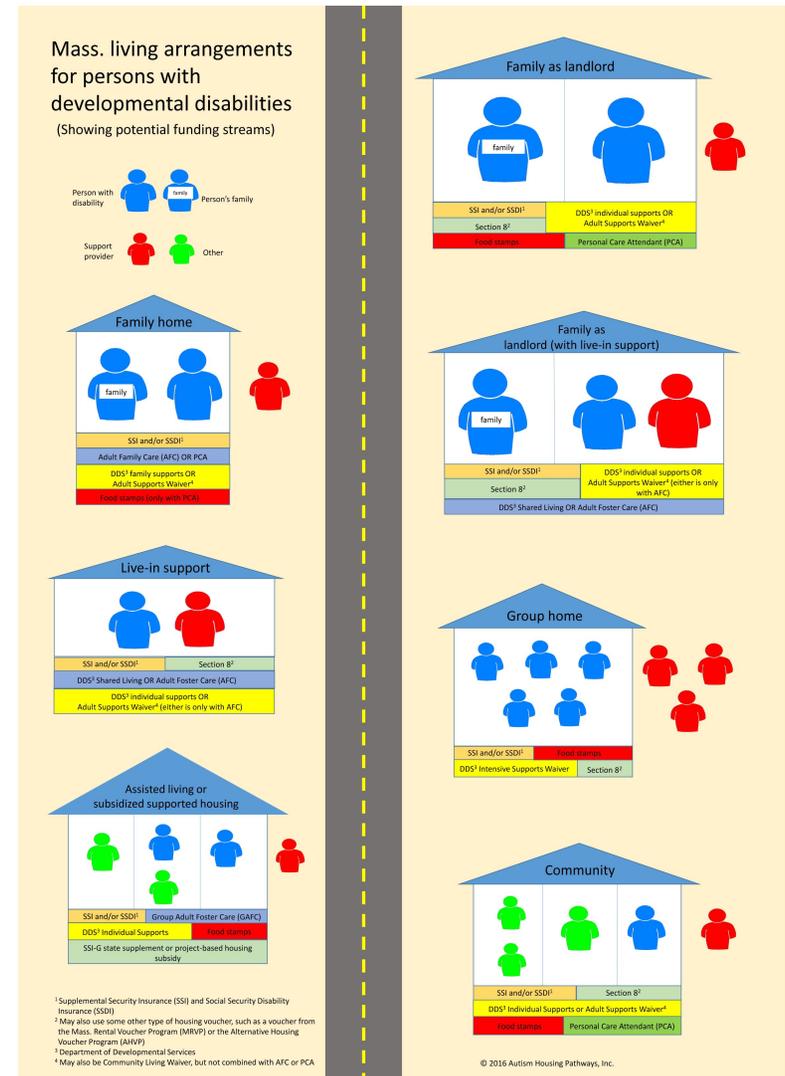
DDS gets to decide where its funds can be used

- 2014 policy is outlined at:
<https://autismhousingpathways.org/dds-issues-policy-on-residential-settings/>
- Key features:
 - DDS will not “license, fund or support new residential development” with any of the following characteristics:
 - Settings that have limited, if any, interaction with the broader community;
 - Settings that use or authorize restrictions that are used in institutional settings;
 - Farmsteads or disability-specific farm community;
 - Gated or secured communities for people with disabilities;
 - Settings that are part of or adjacent to a residential school;
 - Multiple settings co-located and operationally-related that congregate a large number of people with disabilities for significant shared programming and staff; and
 - Multiple settings on a single site or in close proximity.
- Due to this policy, DDS funds cannot be used to pay for supports in some settings, including some of the private-pay models mentioned earlier.

7 possible housing models

- The family home: a non-custodial family member provides support, or support comes in periodically
- The family as landlord: the individual lives in an attached unit, with support that comes in periodically
- The family as landlord (with live-in support): the individual lives in an attached unit, with live-in support
- Live-in support: the individual lives in a separate unit, with live-in support. The unit may be owned or rented by the individual, the family, or the support provider.
- A group home: a number of people live in a small group residence, with support provided by hourly workers provided by the state or an agency. The home may be owned by families, the state, an agency, or a third-party landlord.
- Assisted living or subsidized supported housing: individuals may live in an assisted living facility or subsidized housing, with support that comes in periodically.
- Community: an individual lives in an apartment or home in the community, with support that comes in periodically.

<https://autismhousingpathways.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/infographic2gray.pdf>



2016 MA Housing Think Tank

- Analyzed a broad range of housing models that were compatible with the DDS policy
- Participants identified a subset of models likely to meet the needs of the broadest range of people, as well as some for those with highly specialized needs
- Since the think tank, AHP has considered some additional models
- All these models can be fit into a typology based on the 6 of the 7 models previously discussed (the family home is omitted)



**Brighter Futures Conference
March 27, 2026**

**Kelly Meyers, MA, CCC-SLP
Director of Admissions & Enrollment Management**

"... that each life may find meaning."®

www.pathfindervillage.org

Pathfinder Village is in Edmeston, NY, and is part of the greater rural Otsego County community. The Village includes 300 acres, three microbusinesses, and will host over 30 community events this year. The Village serves as a place where people develop personally, gaining independence while forming friendships and a sense of community.





Home Life



Aging with Dignity

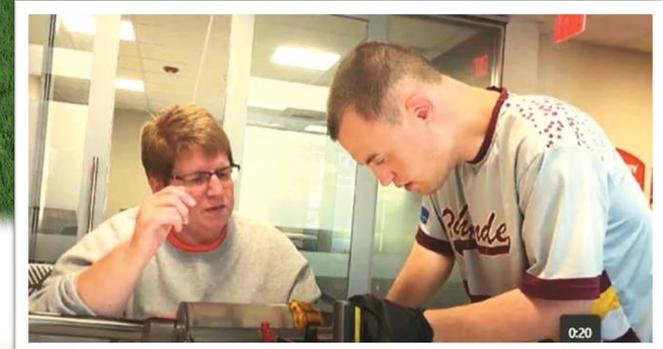


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Vocational Training & Employment



Supporting People Across the Lifespan



www.pathfindervillage.org



New England Equity Collective Inclusive Communities Initiative

Creating Inclusive, Affordable
Housing for Individuals with IDD



Our Mission

- To advance housing equity, inclusive community development, and economic opportunity by creating access to safe, affordable housing and financial empowerment programs.
- Create a future where every individual—regardless of ability or background—has the opportunity to build financial stability and live in a community that reflects equity, inclusion, and belonging.

The Problem

- The housing crisis for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is real. We are building a model for truly inclusive, affordable communities
- Individuals with IDD face a critical shortage of safe and affordable housing, leading to unstable living situations and limited access to essential services.

The Solution

The Inclusive Communities Initiative: A comprehensive model that combines affordable housing with wraparound services like job training, healthcare, and arts engagement to create a self-sustaining community



NEW ENGLAND EQUITY COLLECTIVE



Transform Lives Through Accessible Housing

Support the NEEC's Inclusive Communities Initiative

Massachusetts faces a severe shortage of affordable housing for individuals with disabilities — **40% of people with disabilities spend 30% or more of their income on housing costs.**

The New England Equity Collective's mission is creating affordable, accessible, and integrated housing in Massachusetts to ensure individuals with IDD can live independently and thrive.



Donate today!

Help us build inclusive communities

Partner with us!

Become a corporate sponsor or advocate

Spread the word!

Share NEEC's mission with your network

How Your Support Helps

- Acquire and rehabilitate properties for **accessible housing.**
- Provide **24-hour onsite support staff** for job training, healthcare access, and independent living.
- Foster community through **artist and musician-in-residence programs.**
- Help individuals with disabilities pursue **higher education** through partnerships with Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI).
- Ensure **long-term affordability** through Section 811 Supportive Housing as well as state and federal programs.

Together, we can create a future where housing is not a privilege, but a right for all.



Visit us online at
newenglandequitycollective.org

Inclusive Communities Initiative

The Inclusive Communities Initiative is a phased supportive housing development to address the urgent need for high-quality, community-based housing for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in Massachusetts.

The project includes the construction of three ADA-compliant, fully staffed homes serving 12 adults (4 residents per home) with 24/7 wraparound support. This housing-first model is designed to operate independently of future mixed-use components and will establish a sustainable residential and service delivery framework aligned with DDS and MassHealth waiver structures.

Future phases will introduce mission-aligned community assets—including a bookstore café, arts studio, performance space, and recreational amenities—to foster social inclusion, workforce pathways, and economic participation. The project is sited on a 7-acre parcel under Purchase and Sale agreement in Brockton/East Bridgewater and is being developed in partnership with experienced architectural, housing, and nonprofit leaders. The initiative blends supportive housing, social enterprise, and community integration into a scalable model for inclusive development.

Our Integrated Model



- 24-Hour Onsite Staff
- Case Management, Job Training, Life Skills Support
- Healthcare and Wellness Services
- Artist/Musician-in-Residence to foster engagement
- Partnerships with MAICEI for higher education access

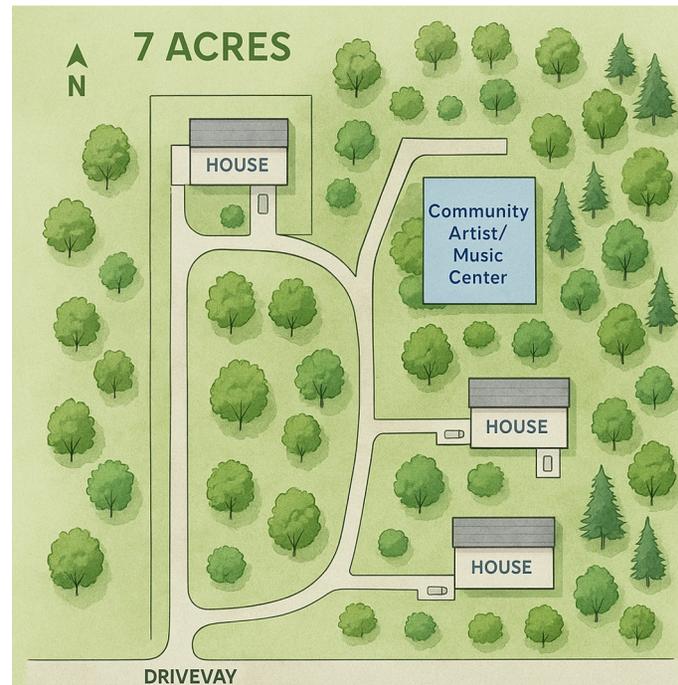
Why Us?

- A diverse, experienced leadership team with deep expertise in housing, equitable solutions, and advocacy.
- Backed by partners like High Spirit Community Farm.
- \$25K grant from The Boston Foundation and \$5k from the Mass Cultural Council already secured.



Committed Funding

- **\$25,000 Seed Grant – The Boston Foundation**
- **Up to \$1.4M in acquisition and construction financing - LISC**
- **\$325k Predevelopment loan request in process - CEDAC**
- **\$36,000 Pre development Grant– Massachusetts Cultural Council (pending)**



Get Involved

To learn more or get involved, contact:
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Equity Collective

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Phone: 508-641-1818

Website:

www.newenglandequitycollective.org



About L'Arche communities



“I need you and you need me.
Together, we’re L’Arche.”

-L’Arche Boston North Founding Mother
Debbie Essler

L’Arche is a community where
people with and without
intellectual disabilities share
life, celebrate gifts, and grow
together.

Debbie

Ali





L'Arche International is dedicated to the creation and growth of homes, programs and support networks where people with and without intellectual disabilities live mutual relationships and share the daily life, building community together.

38 Countries
159 Communities
23 Projects*

CANADA
 Abitibi-Temiscamingue
 Antigonish
 Arnprior
 Calgary
 Capreol
 Conow Valley
 Daguerre
 Capitale Nationale
 Edmonton
 Greater Vancouver
 Hamilton
 Homebush
 Lacombe
 Le Printemps
 Lethbridge
 London
 Mauricie
 Montérégie
 Montreal
 Ottawa
 Outaouais
 Saint John
 Saskatoon
 Stratford
 Sudbury Inc.
 Toronto
 Winnipeg Inc.
 Halifax
 Avalon*

USA
 Atlanta
 Boston North
 Chicago
 Cleveland
 Clinton
 Erie
 Greater Washington DC
 Highland
 Jacksonville
 Michigan
 Portland
 Seattle
 Spokane
 St. Louis
 Syracuse
 Tucson
 Waikare
 Long Island
 Fort Collins*

HAITI
 Carrefour
 Charité

MEXICO
 Mexico City
 Querétaro

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
 Santo Domingo

HONDURAS
 Choluteca
 Tegucigalpa

BRASIL
 São Paulo
 Sorocaba

ARGENTINA
 Buenos Aires

FRANCE
 Agnès
 Ayrignon
 Argos
 Beauvais
 Brest
 Cognac
 Cuse
 Dion
 Ecorchebeuf
 Grison
 Grenoble
 Haute Savoie
 La Vallée
 La Merle
 La Rochebeaucourt
 Le Callias Blanc
 Le Levain
 Le Moulin de l'Auro
 Le Sineux
 Le Sycamore
 Les Sables
 Les Trois Fontaines
 L'Horizon
 Lille Métropole
 L'Olivier
 Lyon
 Marseille
 Nancy
 Paris
 Pays Cotentin
 Pays Toulousain
 Pierrefonds
 Reims
 Strasbourg
 Tressy
 Aix en Provence*
 Clermont Ferrand*
 Le Havre*
 Martinique*
 Nogent-sur-Maine*
 Orleans*

BURKINA FASO
 Nongri Maassim

IVORY COAST
 Bouaké

UGANDA
 Kampala

KENYA
 Ngaharuru

ZIMBABWE

NORTHERN IRELAND
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 Cork
 Dublin
 Kilkenny

SPAIN
 El Rusc
 Els Avels
 Madrid*

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 Ercot
 Edinburgh
 Highland
 Ipswich
 Kent
 Liverpool
 London
 Manchester
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 Haarlem

BELGIUM
 Aartswerpen
 Avels
 Bierges
 Bruxelles
 Gent
 Moeskroen-Brugge
 Namur

Landsberg
 Ravensburg
 Teckenburg

SWITZERLAND
 Fribourg
 Im Hauen
 La Corolle

AUSTRIA
 Tirol

REPUBLIC
 Benediktus*
 Villa Vallar*

ITALY
 Arcobaleno
 Chicco
 Cagliari*

SLOVENIA
 Skopnost Barka

CROATIA
 Zagreb

Betzata
 Kairuan

POLAND
 Poznan
 Słodziejowice
 Warszawa
 Wrocław
 Gdynia

UKRAINE
 Korochah
 Ternopol

JAPAN
 Kansai-No-ke

PHILIPPINES
 Purita

BANGLADESH
 Mymensingh

INDIA
 Aurore
 Bangalore
 Chennai
 Kolkata
 Nandi Bazar

SYRIA
 Al-Safina

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
 Ma'an-El-Hajar

EGYPT
 Al-Fik
 Mog Abich*
 Queset Al-Farah*

AUSTRALIA
 Bern-Adens
 Brisbane
 Geelong
 Melbourne
 Sydney
 Adelaide*
 Bendigo*
 Perth*

NEW ZEALAND
 Kapiti
 Mount Tabor



L'Arche is
different

we emphasize
relationships
over
tasks

each person is
Valued
and contributes
Uniquely

Trying out
Fran's
hairstyle!



L'Arche is *home*



Nightly dinner...



celebrating a
birthday

WE ARE
excited
to share time with you!



Assistive Technology and Remote Support Housing Options

NortheastArc
Changing lives. Discovering abilities.

Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology is any device or service that increases a person's independence.

Some examples of assistive technology include:

- Adaptive cooking tools
- Mobility aids
- Communication devices
- Talking clocks
- Medication dispensers

These devices are often individual-based and move with the individual to their next home.



Individual using an iPad as an assistive device.



Remote Support

Remote Support is any device or service that can provide off-site coaching, monitoring, and assistance for people with disabilities. This increases independence by reducing the need for constant physical staff present.

Remote supports can be used for:

- Offering reminders
- Conducting Safety Checks
- Providing on-demand help with daily living activities

Remote support devices can be sensors, tablets, or on-demand help buttons and more. These devices are installed in the home to ensure safety for all residents.



Individual accessing remote support through a tablet.



What is the Northeast Arc up to?

The Northeast Arc has quite a few avenues to assist individuals with getting access to technology to increase their independence.

Some of the services we offer consist of:

- Assistive Technology Evaluations through DDS or Private Pay.
- Remote Supports services in collaboration with SafeinHome and SimplyHome.
- Telehealth collaboration with StationMD to serve over 100 individuals in the residential program.
- Assistive Technology Lending Library to serve all of the Northeast of Massachusetts.



Individual using their phone as an assistive device.



A closer look at what we do: Evaluations

Assistive Technology and Remote Support Evaluations give us the opportunity to ensure the individuals we serve are as independent as possible.

- These evaluations consist of a virtual interview, an in-home visit, and a report.
- Once the devices are approved, delivery and training is provided. Follow-up training is also provided as needed.

The Northeast Arc has served over 300 individuals through assistive technology and remote supports.

This service is available through Private Pay and DDS.



Individual smiling in a field of flowers..

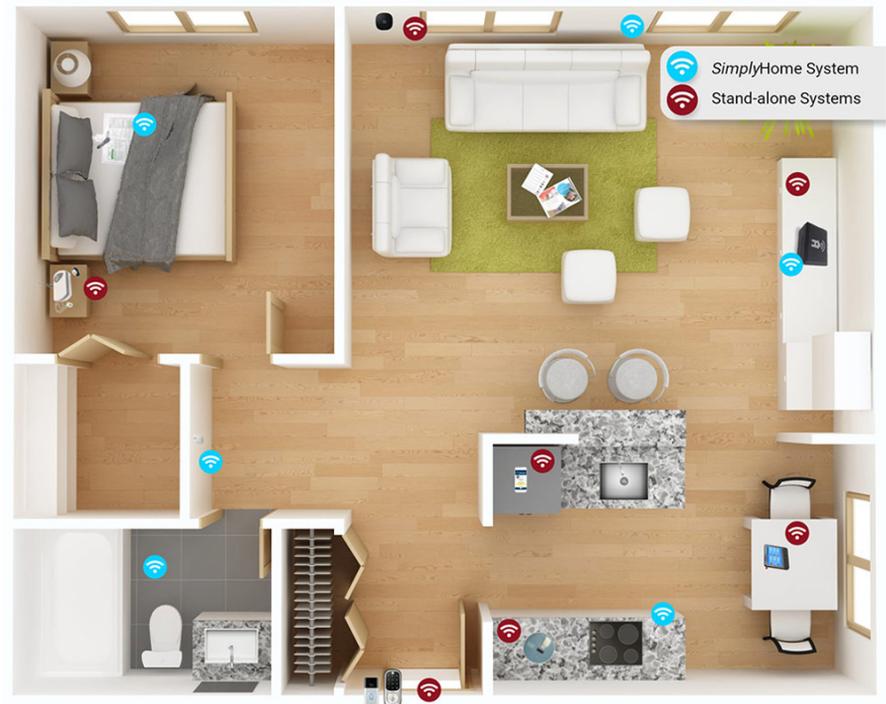


A closer look at what we do: SimplyHome

Our newest venture involves remote support to increase independence at night. This venture has been pursued in collaboration with SimplyHome.

If an individual were to slip and fall in the bathroom the motion sensor would detect it and contact appropriate authorities.

The Northeast Arc is currently trialing this technology in two shared living residences.



SimplyHome smart sensor technology stationed around the home.

A closer look at what we do: Station MD

Station MD is a telehealth provider specializing in the unique healthcare needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They facilitate access to high-quality specialized medical care around the clock without requiring individuals to leave their home.

Barriers that StationMD overcomes:

- It can take time to transport an individual into the appropriate equipment and get them to an emergency center.
- Some individuals may struggle with waiting long hours before being seen.
- Some individuals may not feel comfortable with leaving their home.

StationMD has helped resolve more than 90% of the calls they receive without the patient needing to leave their home setting.

The Northeast Arc is currently serving over 100 individuals in the residential program through Station MD.



Individual accessing telemedicine services through Station MD.



A closer look at what we do: Lending Library

The **Assistive Technology Lending Library** at the Liberty Tree Mall is a hidden gem that allows individuals to access a plethora of devices to increase their independence.

- Our assistive technology library can be accessed by anyone, not just those served by the Northeast Arc.
- We are collaborating with Easterseals to create a transportation service that brings their devices to the Liberty Tree Mall. No more driving into Boston traffic for independence!



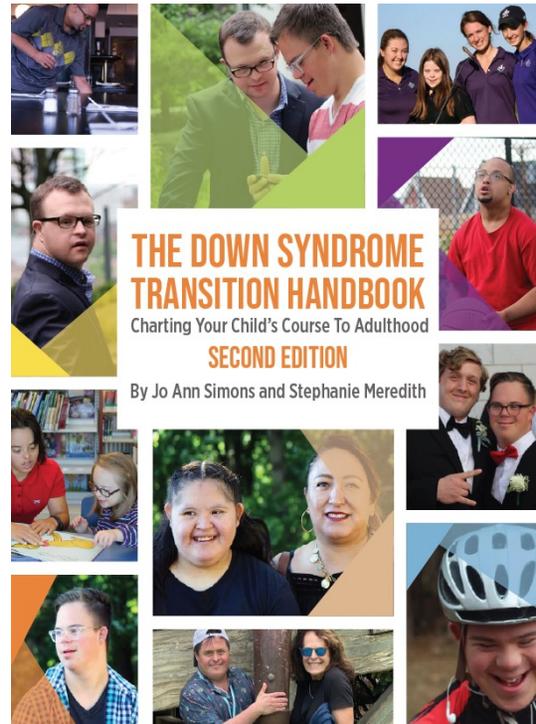
Individual being trained on how to use an adaptive controller.

The Down Syndrome Transition Handbook:

Charting Your Child's Course To Adulthood, Second Edition



Download the PDF for free



Thank you!

Questions?

