



CREATIVE OPTIONS FOR HOME

Exploring Individualized
Housing Models

WEBCAST+
WORKBOOK



the
fundamentals
of **future planning**

A 6-PART P4P **WEBCAST+** SERIES



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PART ONE: **INTRODUCTION**

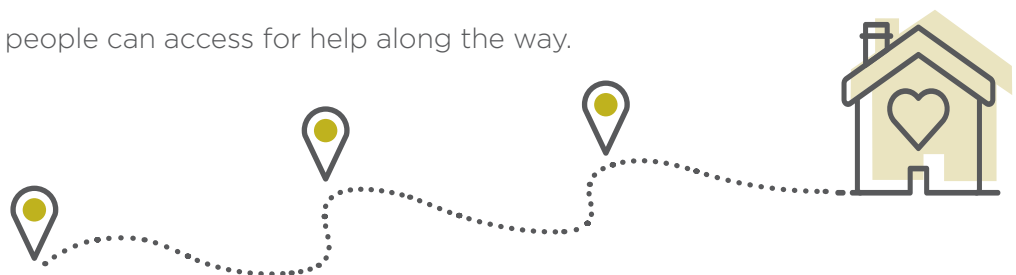
When we meet a family that has created an individualized housing plan and have worked through the challenges of setting up the type of home that works for their loved one, we are thrilled for them.

We understand the obstacles they've faced, the time, the creativity, the conversations and the endless budgets they've worked through to make it happen. We also understand the peace of mind families feel when their family member has a home they are proud of and one that is a foundation to a good life. A home that, if set up properly, will be sustainable as parents age and are no longer able to offer support.

The challenges are significant. There are thousands of people on wait lists for residential supports, tens of thousands who've registered and are waiting for affordable housing and a housing market with soaring costs. Add to that the need and costs to support the person in their own home and community, and it's no wonder that people feel overwhelmed.

And yet, there are families thinking outside the box, coming up with individualized housing solutions for their family member with a disability.

Our objective for this session is to profile three families who have setup different individualized housing solutions and to learn from their experiences. We will then discuss each model with our housing expert Kelly Casey to learn some of the "tricks of the trade" people can access for help along the way.



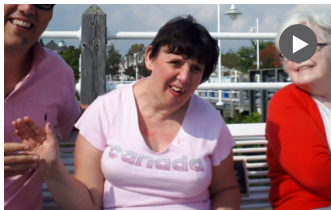
BEFORE THE WEBCAST

Check out a few of the personal profiles available on the Planning Network that demonstrate how individuals with a developmental disability have created individualized and creative homes for themselves:



Forever Home

Peter's story illustrates how his siblings and community came together to support him in his family home after his mother passed away.



Crafting a Good Life: Tiffany Dawe

Learn how Tiffany Dawe and her mother, Linda, crafted a life full of friendship, opportunity and community.



Two Brothers, One Condo

The story of how brothers Hayden and Wesley transitioned from living with their mother to living in their own condo.



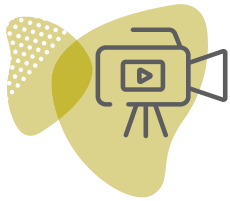
John Smith: At Home in the World

John's story of living in his own apartment helped him embrace his independence and make his own decisions.



Learning to live like Neil

How moving into his own home helped Neil gain independence and explore his passions.



PART TWO: **WATCH THE WEBCAST**

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 - 7:00 PM

The Nurturing Supportive Relationships Webcast will start at 7PM and will run for approximately one hour. The webcast will be available to watch again for one month after the original air date.

If you would like to test your computer setup check out the [TEST LINK](#). If the test video plays smoothly and the sound is good, you should be fine.

On Tuesday, December 7, [LAUNCH WEBCAST PLAYER](#) before 7:00PM

OUR PRESENTERS



Anna Bruno, Webcast Host

Anna has worked with families and their children living with varying abilities for over 10 years in a variety of capacities. Anna worked as a Social Worker at Grandview Children Centre for 8 years. She is committed to ongoing learning and a reflective, collaborative approach to her work. Anna belongs to the circles of support of a few individuals and while offering her own time has also gained much including a good knowledge base of how circles function and how to support people towards achieving a good life rooted in their community.

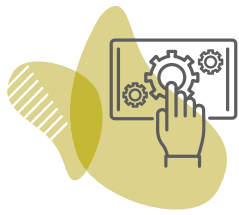


Kelly Casey, Development Services Consultant

Kelly Casey has over 30 years of experience working with people in the developmental services sector. Over the past 10 years, she has developed creative housing solutions with people and their Network of Support. In addition to planning with people and their families, Kelly is a well-respected collaborator and partner with various agencies in the private and public sector, all of which aim to support a more meaningful life for all people.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- An introduction to creating an individualized housing plan for a family member with a disability.
- Personal stories from families who have successfully created innovative housing models for their loved one.
- Practical tips and resources that can help develop your plan.
- An introduction to the DSO Housing Navigator Toolkit with instructions on how to get started on your personal home plan.
- An opportunity to connect with other families in our Virtual Discussion Groups.



PART THREE: **TAKE ACTION**

Creating a housing plan takes some time and effort. We encourage you to approach it by taking small, manageable actions that will move you and your loved one towards a good life and secure future.

The following Action Steps will support you in creating a vision for a home for your loved one with a disability.

→ **ACTION STEP ONE:**

Complete the Dreaming of Home Worksheet

Below you will find a list of questions that have been designed to get you started thinking about what the best living situation is for your family member. Take a few minutes to sit down with your loved one to dream about their ideal home, using the questions that follow. We recognize it can be difficult to think outside of the realm of possibilities that you're used to seeing, but as you go through this list, try not to think of 'how' something can be done. Now is not the time for limitations. It's time to dream.



- What kind of home would you like to live in?
- Would you like to live by yourself or with other people?
- Who would you like to provide support to you in your own home?
What would this person help with?
- Where do you want to live?
- What do you want to live close to?
(a park, church, recreation centre, bus route, shops, and so on.)
- What kind of furniture would you like for your own place?

- What kind of things would you like in your bedroom?
- Would you like a pet? What kind? Who will be responsible for caring for it?
- Would you like a garden?
- Do you like to cook? If so, what would you like your kitchen to have?
- Would you like to have a quiet room?
- Which room would you like to have music or TV in?
- How would you decorate:
 - The living room?
 - The bedroom?
 - Any other rooms?
- When people visit, how will they know it is truly your home?
- When you come home at the end of the day, what would be the first thing you would do?

→ ACTION STEP TWO: Explore Localized Housing Subsidies

Every region in Ontario is different and each offers various subsidies and programs that may help implement your housing plan. Here are a number of examples but you should check with your region to see what else they may offer.



- **Ontario Renovation Grant List**: A comprehensive list of government grants, energy rebates & tax credits for Ontario homeowners.
- **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)**: The COHB is a new funding program which provides a portable housing benefit to assist with rental costs. This provincially mandated benefit is available to eligible priority groups (developmental services is one priority) who are on a central waiting list (the municipal or regional subsidized housing list).
- **York Region Strategic Plan**: This PDF plan identifies the actions York Region will take over the next 10 years to address the growing and diversifying housing needs of our residents and workers. Please note this plan was released in 2014.
- **Secondary Suites Program**: The Secondary Suites Program provides funding of up to \$30,000 per unit for the creation of a secondary or garden suite which is an effective means to increase the supply of affordable housing.
- **The Ontario Home and Vehicle Modification Program**: This program, administered by the Ontario March of Dimes, provides funding to eligible applicants to help offset the costs of home modifications.
- **Simcoe County Affordable Homeownership Program**: This program assists low-to-moderate income renter households in Simcoe County in the purchase of an affordable home by providing 10% down payment assistance in the form of a forgivable loan.
- **Home in Peel Affordable Ownership Program**: This program is designed to provide moderate income residents who are currently renting a unit in the Region of Peel (Brampton, Caledon or Mississauga) the opportunity to qualify for down payment loan assistance to buy a home in Peel Region.
- **Affordable Ownership Housing Providers** - City of Toronto: The City of Toronto works with a number of groups that provide affordable home ownership opportunities. Please contact the community partners listed in the link provided to learn what assistance they can offer.

→ ACTION STEP THREE: Get Support from Family Networks

Family Networks can be a great source of inspiration and information. Check out the [P4P Family Network Directory](#) to search for a Family Network in your area. While all Family Networks will have a different focus, those Networks in the Directory that are affiliates of Family Alliance Ontario are committed to supporting families to create individualized opportunities in community.



→ ACTION STEP FOUR: Order *Safe & Secure* (2020 Edition)



Available in hard copy and a digital version, [Safe & Secure - Seven Steps on the Path to a Good Life for People with a Disability](#) is a book that provides a comprehensive overview of critical planning objectives for families. The book is free and can be downloaded as an e-book on the Planning Network. There is a nominal cost for shipping the hard copy.

→ ACTION STEP FIVE: Explore the DSO Housing Resources

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) funds community agencies who provide supportive housing options to people with developmental disabilities. Learning more about these residential services and supports can help you find a home that works for your needs.

- [DSO Housing Toolkit](#): A library of housing resources designed to help you and your loved one create an individualized housing and support plan.
- [DSO Housing Navigators Contact List](#): A list of regional DSO housing navigator contacts.
- [DSO - My Housing and Support Plan](#): A PDF template to assist you and your loved one in planning for an ideal home for the future.
- [DSO - Housing and Support Budget Document](#): This spreadsheet will help you budget for a home for your loved one.

→ ACTION STEP SIX: Maximize Other Resources

In some cases, there are benefits and programs your loved one may be eligible for that can help offset the costs associated with housing. Make sure you're getting the most of out of these. We've listed a few examples below.

- **Family Managed Home Care**: Under the FMHC program (administered by Local Health Integration Networks and funded by the Ministry of Health), families receive funds directly to manage and schedule their children's caregivers and their schedules.
- **Ontario Disability Support Program**: If your loved one is eligible for ODSP, they will receive a monthly payment that includes both a basic needs amount and a shelter allowance. This shelter allowance amount changes depending on whether your loved one rents or owns their home, is in a lodging arrangement or is living with family, so it's always a good idea to double check that they are receiving the correct amount.

→ ACTION STEP SEVEN: Keep Learning

We've compiled a variety of resources that will deepen your understanding of critical home planning issues and keep you on track.

- **Housing Task Force Booklet**: A digital guide containing details of 18 innovative housing solutions for people with a developmental disability. A great source of ideas from across the province.
- **Lights: Housing for People with Special Needs**: Lights is a program comprised of community leaders in partnership with Community Living Toronto to assist individuals with an intellectual disability and their family to envision and plan an alternative living arrangement outside the family home.
- **The Oak Park Family Group**:
See how eight families came together to create homes in community for their loved ones.
You can also learn more on their [website](#).



- **Shared Dreams for Independent Living**: A Peterborough, Ontario based non-profit that advocates for people living with a developmental disability to live as independently as possible, away from their families, but with family engagement and support.
- **Facebook Group: POST Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force**: A Facebook Group developed to provide a platform for discussion on innovative housing strategies in general. This group has over 2000 members and is open to all.
- **Seniors for Social Action Ontario**: Due to a lack of housing options, many people with developmental disabilities have been placed in Long Term Care Facilities. With the realities of Covid-19, Seniors for Social Action Ontario are bringing attention to the deplorable housing condition found in long term care facilities and are advocating for new solutions.
- **Report: The RDSP Home Ownership Plan**: A comprehensive report exploring ways in which the Registered Disability Savings Plan could potentially be used to support home ownership.

→ **ACTION STEP EIGHT: Wrapping Up**

Before we wrap up our series, we would like to ask for your help. The Fundamentals of Future Planning Series is a new free resource we've created for families supporting a child or adult with a disability.



We have incorporated a number of new approaches for online education and engagement and we need your feedback. Please take 2 minutes to complete our **SURVEY**. We've kept it short and wish to thank you in advance.

Congratulations! You've completed the Creative Options for Home Workbook



the fundamentals of future planning

A **6-PART** P4P **WEBCAST+** SERIES

The P4P Planning Network offers **FREE resources** designed to empower people with a disability and their families to create meaningful lives and secure futures, firmly rooted in community.

smart strategies | **creative tools** | **sustainable solutions**



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