GENERATING IDEAS AND **ENABLING ACTION:**

Addressing the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities

ONTARIO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

HOUSING TASK FORCE **FINAL REPORT 2018**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

The Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force has the honour to present here its final report: *Generating Ideas and Enabling Action: Addressing the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities.*

There is a housing crisis confronting Ontarians with developmental disabilities – and it is a crisis that has been growing steadily more serious for at least twenty years. For many citizens whose families are unaffected by the challenges connected with developmental disabilities, the housing crisis is often invisible. Too often, however, housing challenges can bring pain and consequences that profoundly limit the joys and opportunities that should be available to all in a province as blessed as ours.

This report urges dramatic action. It is time to move with energy and determination to challenge and overcome the severe difficulties that have been so long endured. Given awareness, innovation, and commitment, the Housing Task Force also believes that a record of crisis can be turned into a legacy of success – one that can be a source of pride for future generations of Ontarians.

The word "crisis" is exactly appropriate to describe the housing challenges outlined in this report. Statistics alone are deeply disturbing and grow exponentially with each passing year. For example:
- In 2013, the wait list[1] indicated that 12,000 adults with developmental disabilities were waiting for residential services.
- By 2017, *the number had climbed to 15,700*.

These raw numbers, bad as they are, actually need to be multiplied to fully understand their impact. Parents, siblings, extended families, and networks of support are challenged by having to shoulder total responsibility for providing housing supports on their own. Indeed, the numbers should be multiplied yet again because these housing challenges are hidden for decades while families provide often unacknowledged and uncounted care and support for loved ones at home – decades beyond the time most Ontarians experience the famous "empty nest" phenomenon.

In recent years, several studies and reports have elaborated on the statistics and awareness of what they mean to our fellow citizens. Progressive Conservatives joined Liberal and New Democratic Party members in launching a Parliamentary Select Committee in 2014 to investigate the disturbing range of problems experienced by citizens with developmental disabilities. All

---

[1] "Service registry" is current provincial government terminology for what many in the broader community refer to and experience as the "wait list" for housing. This report will use the term "wait list" for clarity in its reference to this circumstance.

three parties then endorsed an ambitious set of recommendations designed to address the issues that were identified, acknowledging the severe shortfall in housing supports. Among the proposals, that Select Committee urged the elimination of wait lists within 12 months. To cite another example of widely available information on the problems being addressed here, in 2016, the Ontario Ombudsman's Office released *Nowhere to Turn,* a report detailing the large number of severely troubling cases, in which Ontario families and individuals had been left in prolonged crisis situations because of the lack of appropriate residential opportunities.

There is, then, no shortage of statistics confirming the housing crisis and yet, here we are, confronting not just a long-standing predicament that has remained static, but one that actually grows more troubling each year. More people are waiting – and waiting longer than ever – for housing opportunities that will allow them to live more independent lives in their communities. There are also more parents and siblings waiting for the supports that will allow them to leave behind the nightmares that haunt them, as they worry about a safe and secure future for an adult child, sister, or brother who needs a home and support.

Generating Ideas and Enabling Action is the Housing Task Force's response to this crisis. The report presents recommendations based on four years of study and deliberation, informed by wide-ranging consultations, demonstration projects, and almost countless years of collective lived experience among the Task Force's members. We emphatically believe that implementation of the recommendations will help to generate a desperately needed legacy of success. If implemented, we can begin a new and happier chapter in the history of the housing crisis confronting adults with developmental disabilities.

The recommendations in this report also emerge from a strong Housing Task Force consensus regarding core principles and guidelines. Because these principles have served as a particularly important foundation for our recommendations, they deserve highlighting in advance:

- **We believe emphatically in the need for action.** There are many words in this report – as has been the case with many other studies over the years – but the Housing Task Force was also determined to use demonstration projects and other efforts to <u>begin building quickly</u> as investigation and learning proceeded. Government should continue this pattern.
- **We believe that innovation should be a priority concern.** This was an important part of the Housing Task Force's original mandate, and our four years of experience have only made us more aware of the abundant creative energies that exist across the province. Those energies need to be enabled, in order to more effectively deal with the housing crisis.

- **We believe that person-directed and person-centered approaches need to be a constant feature of planning and action.** Ontarians with developmental disabilities must have their rights as citizens fully respected as we move forward.
- **We believe in the importance of strong sensitivity to diversity and equity.** There should be clear awareness of the widely differing needs and wishes of people with developmental disabilities, and this recognition should prompt the design of wide-ranging options for individual support. The overall diversity of Ontario also requires special awareness. Cities, towns, and rural areas; multiple social, ethnic, and faith communities; the unique challenges of the North; and other elements of the province's complexity should influence a search for flexibility and variety in program and action design.
- **We believe in the promise of partnerships and the possibilities that emerge from strengthening relationships and commitment to shared purpose.** The housing crisis confronting Ontarians with developmental disabilities cannot rest solely on the shoulders of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The resources, energy, and creativity of other provincial government departments, other levels of government, individuals and families, agencies delivering services at the grassroots level, and the private sector can and should play vital roles in producing the legacy of success that is so desperately needed. This has been shown in microcosm through the demonstration projects that have emerged from the work of the Housing Task Force, and the lessons learned about the benefits of partnership hold major potential for moving forward.

The members of the Housing Task Force look forward to opportunities to discuss our experiences and recommendations with the government and with the wider community that is so deeply concerned about this crisis. There are no quick solutions to the housing crisis confronting Ontario adults with developmental disabilities, which means that ongoing commitment and engagement will be needed by all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Pruessen, Chair
Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force

Lynda Kahn, Vice-Chair
Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force (HTF) concludes its four years of effort with this final report: *Generating Ideas/Enabling Action: Addressing the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities*

Tasked with exploring innovative ideas for dealing with the steadily worsening housing problems confronting an especially vulnerable sector of the population, the HTF used wide-ranging consultations and research to design thirteen key recommendations**.**

Eighteen demonstration projects highlighted both key principles and priorities and a wide range of new or expanded options for moving forward more effectively. An overview of the demonstration projects can be found at: 18 Innovative Housing Solutions.

The HTF concluded that a two-fold approach would have value for addressing the housing crisis for Ontario adults with developmental disabilities: On one hand, our explorations brought us great appreciation for the significance of ideas – for the production of what we have come to call an innovative "knowledge economy" for the developmental services sector. On the other hand we never doubted that good ideas would require action if progress was to be made. Within both the "generating ideas" and "enabling action" sections of this report, the Housing Task Force has found it helpful to use a wide-angle lens perspective that emphasizes various categories of approach: "whole of government," "whole of society," and "the lived experiences of individuals families and networks."

The HTF urges vigorous and sustained action on the following recommendations:

SECTION I: GENERATING IDEAS

A. *"WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT" APPROACHES: CROSS-MINISTERIAL COLLABORATION*

Recommendation 1: Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF)

The Housing Task Force recommends formation of an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) charged with identifying and developing opportunities for "whole of government" initiatives. The IMHTF would both address and look beyond the current crisis, in order to develop transformative steps that would prevent the re-emergence of crisis situations in the future.

Recommendation 2: **Inter-ministerial Policy Review**

A wide-ranging policy research and review should be undertaken, led by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and supported by ministries with related and relevant concerns (e.g. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services) <u>and</u> municipalities. The research would serve to identify current policy (and existing rules and directives) that may be <u>limiting</u> innovation as well as the most effective use of funding and supports.

<u>B. "WHOLE OF SOCIETY" APPROACHES: ENGAGING ADVOCATES AND OTHER EXPERTS IN CONTINUAL RESEARCH & CONSULTATION</u>

Recommendation 3: "Housing and Housing Supports" Research & Consultation Initiatives

There should be an investment in the continual exploration and consultation of housing innovation specific to both the availability and creation of physical housing and the creative use of supports/funding. These initiatives would help set the stage for changes in the current crisis-based system of prioritization, moving towards providing greater choice and flexibility to people with developmental disabilities.

Recommendation 4: Cross-sector/Cross-regional Research Initiatives

The Housing Task Force recommends that the government engage in continual exploration and research to identify innovative developmental services initiatives and practices in other provinces, countries, communities and related sectors (e.g. mental health & addictions). The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, should lead this effort, in collaboration with ministries with related and relevant concerns (i.e. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance).

Recommendation 5: Research Initiatives Addressing 'Complex' Situations and Unsupported Individuals

The government should commit to undertaking specific exploration and research aimed at identifying issues/needs and solutions to address situations faced by people without personal networks of support, who have multiple, intersecting needs, or who are in 'complex' or precarious housing situations, including those facing homelessness.

Recommendation 6: Research Initiatives Focused on Technological Innovation

There should be further exploration and research focused on the identification of technology-based initiatives and advancements that could be utilized to address housing and residential support needs for people with developmental disabilities.

C. GATHERING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, & NETWORKS: GRASSROOTS CONSULTATIONS & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Recommendation 7: Continuous Consultation Process

The HTF recommends the implementation and maintenance of regular, meaningful grassroots consultation efforts with non-government stakeholders (individuals, families, family networks, self-advocacy groups and other grassroots community members) and service providers, including housing providers, healthcare providers, and other service groups within the broader community:

- To advance common sense recommendations, '
- To identify opportunities for government action, and
- To tackle inconsistencies and barriers within current government programs.

These consultation efforts should include clearly stated outcome expectations and a schedule for annual reporting of people's experiences and future actions.

SECTION II – ENABLING ACTION

A. "WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT" APPROACHES: PRIORITIZING INNOVATION & EMPHASIZING QUALITY OF LIFE

Recommendation 8: Overall Funding for Housing Services and Supports

The Housing Task Force recommends adoption of an innovative two-track ten-year budget plan with appropriate funding to sustain and augment individualized housing supports for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The first track would address the long-neglected needs of Ontarians who have been on the wait list for housing supports for more than ten years; the second track would provide the policy and resource commitments needed to prevent the kind of expanding regional or provincial wait lists that generate crisis scenarios for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Recommendation 9: Provincial Housing Innovation Fund

Provincial government action should be taken to increase MCCSS funding for innovation-driven housing initiatives, including an ongoing innovation fund available to each region, and funding provided to enable action on ideas generated by the Inter-Ministerial Housing Task Force called for in Recommendation 1.

Recommendation 10: Affordable Housing Initiatives

A range of actions should be utilized expand affordable housing initiatives for adults with developmental disabilities, with emphasis on responding to opportunities identified by HTF research. Among other things, these actions would entail effective cooperation between

MCCSS, MMAH, MOHLTC and local authorities (including service managers and municipal/regional councils).

B. "WHOLE OF SOCIETY" APPROACHES: SUPPORTING DIVERSE OPTIONS AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACHES

Recommendation 11: Increasing Funding Flexibility and Supporting Individualized Funding

The HTF recommends actions to increase flexibility in utilization of Developmental Services funding, including the availability of individualized/direct funding for residential options, and encouraging the availability of a dedicated independent third-party resource to assist individuals and families in the development of an individualized, customized housing proposal/ plan for an innovative housing solution.

C. EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND NETWORKS: COMMUNICATION, SYSTEM REFORM & TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

Recommendation 12: Community-Focused Communication Initiatives

The HTF recommends that MCCSS allocate funding and resources towards the implementation and ongoing maintenance of a central communications hub curated to include the most current information regarding funding and housing options including links to forms, updates, etc. This hub should be available and easily accessible to anyone with an interest in DS services and information.

Recommendation 13: Adjusting the Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) Application and Support Process

The HTF recommends that the role of DSO with regard to supporting individuals in accessing appropriate housing be clarified across the province, in order to better identify appropriate and available housing options.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the 13 recommendations in this Housing Task Force final report will address the severe housing problems confronting adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. There are multiple tools and resources available to support innovative ideas and energized actions that are desperately needed for sustainable housing options to emerge and flourish. For example, the encouragement of partnerships, the fostering of consultation, and the expansion of individualized Funding will give citizens greater control over their lives, while also expanding overall capacity to resolve this worsening problem.

For too long, the approach to housing needs within Ontario's developmental services system has been crisis-driven and crisis-generating. It has locked people into long-term, life-long dependency that is simultaneously very costly. Government resources and leadership will always be needed for vulnerable sectors of the population, but responsibilities can and should be shared more effectively and productively. The innovations proposed in this report will allow citizens and communities to play the more expansive roles they are able and anxious to take up, while allowing government to serve people with greater care and efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of the work and recommendations of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force (HTF), formed in 2014 under the auspices of the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), now the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). The HTF was charged with the task of researching and identifying innovative solutions to the severe housing shortage experienced by people with developmental disabilities and their families in Ontario. The report presents:

- A summary of the initiatives undertaken.
- The accomplishments and challenges encountered by the HTF over its four-year mandate.
- Key recommendations stemming from the work of the HTF.

This report consists of three parts:

- **Part I: Background and History of the Housing Task Force**, including a description of the HTF's mandate and objectives and a list of HTF members and their affiliations.
- **Part II: A Summary of the Initiatives undertaken by the HTF**, including a description of the funding and evaluation process for 18 demonstration housing projects throughout Ontario; descriptions of the various communication strategies established between the HTF and the wider community, such as community housing forums, communication with various government representatives, the HTF Facebook page, and HTF Digital Booklet on the Partners for Planning (P4P) website; summaries of the work of the HTF's sub-committees; and a summary of the additional work undertaken during our extended mandate from 2016-2018.
- **Part III: Recommendations to address the severe shortage of housing for people with developmental disabilities** in Ontario, presented in two streams:
  - Recommendations for generating ideas.
  - Recommendations for enabling action.

The report's conclusion summarizes our work and re-emphasizes the need to address the ongoing and urgent housing needs of people with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

Terminology:

In this report, we have chosen to use the term 'adults with developmental disabilities' to designate the people at the centre of this report. While terminology varies according to time and location, we have chosen 'developmental disabilities' in order to align ourselves with the terminology currently in use within the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, other government sectors, and developmental services more generally. We acknowledge that there are a number of different terms currently in use, including 'adults with intellectual disabilities,' 'people with impairments,' and 'disabled people' and that our chosen term may not be satisfactory for all self-advocacy and advocacy groups; we have chosen 'developmental disabilities' in an effort to ensure that our findings and recommendations are heard by those positioned to make effective and timely responses.

As stated by the HTF's Chair and Vice-Chair in their preface, the need for innovative housing solutions remains critical. At the time of writing, ***there are more than 15,000 adults with developmental disabilities in need of housing in Ontario***. It is our hope that the findings and recommendations in this report will provide clear direction towards addressing this urgent situation.

PART I: BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

A. ESTABLISHMENT AND MANDATE

The Developmental Services Housing Task Force was created by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in 2014 following a recommendation made by the Housing Study Group of the joint Ministry of Community and Social Services / Developmental Services Sector Partnership Table, in their final report *Ending the Wait – an Action Agenda to Address the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities,* tabled in September 2013. One of the principal recommendations of *Ending the Wait* was the establishment of a "capacity-building task force" with members from various sectors — individuals and families, government, municipal partners, agencies, experts in housing and social services, community planners, advocates, and technology strategists — who would continue to research and recommend solutions for housing needs for adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. *Ending the Wait* specifically recommended developing a capacity-building framework for housing solutions and the funding of at least five demonstration housing projects for adults with developmental disabilities.

Since its founding in September 2014, the HTF has met monthly to continue the work of the original Housing Study Group: to explore innovative pathways towards the development of secure, person-directed, and community-based homes for adults with developmental disabilities to allow for richer lives and opportunities for citizenship, empowerment, independence, and self-determination.

In 2016, the Ministry of Community and Social Services (now MCCSS) extended the initial two-year mandate of the HTF for an additional two years. Please refer to page 19 in this Introduction for a summary of the work undertaken during this extended mandate. Further information about the creation of the HTF, its membership, and its mission, can be found at: Developmental Services Spotlight on Transformation August 2014.

B. OBECTIVES
Principal Objective:

- To research and identify innovative solutions to the housing crisis facing people with developmental disabilities and their families in Ontario.

Specific Objectives:

- To spearhead the launch of housing demonstration projects, in order to explore different models of accessible, inclusive, person-directed, community-based housing for adults with developmental disabilities.
- To provide specific recommendations to the Ministry on future funding of promising housing proposals.
- To develop web-based resources to help individuals and families to access relevant information and to network, collaborate, and support each other in exploring and creating successful housing solutions.
- To identify performance indicators for monitoring progress towards achieving identified targets.
- To determine barriers currently preventing individuals and families from securing adequate housing and to accessing the resources required to do so.
- To encourage the further development of effective networks for families through which they can share ideas, information, resources, and strategies for establishing housing.

C. MEMBERSHIP

The HTF is comprised of almost two dozen volunteer members, representing cross-provincial grassroots family organizations, self-advocates, agencies, and those with extensive experience in the developmental services and housing sectors. All have professional and real-life experience relevant to the severe shortage of housing options available to adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Ontario.

This report was co-authored by the 17 full members of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force. While affiliations are listed, all members on the Task Force participated in meetings and deliberations as individuals and not representatives of their businesses, institutions, or organizations/agencies. As such, the contents of this report, including all advice and recommendations, represent the views and opinions of the authors only. No endorsement by the

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, or the affiliations for which the authors' names appear is intended or should be inferred.

Emphasizing a whole of government approach, the Housing Task Force meetings have also included representatives from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (now MCCSS), the Ministry of Housing (now Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing), and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. This has allowed the HTF to remain knowledgeable about emergent policy developments and has encouraged attentiveness to possibilities for inter-Ministerial collaboration regarding housing for adults with developmental disabilities. Warm thanks go to Carol Latimer (MMAH) and Glenna Smith (MOHLTC) for their valued attendance and participation in numerous monthly meetings of the HTF. It would also be impossible to overstate the HTF's appreciation for the four years of constant and vital support offered by MCCSS's Community Supports Policy Branch (especially Barbara Simmons, Christine Hughes, and Allan Devlin).

The Housing Task Force also wishes to express its very warm appreciation for the assistance of Sharon Hayward, who was able to work with us on the organization and drafting of this Final Report, thanks to resources provided by MCCSS. Sharon was a wonderful presence during the final year of HTF meetings - intensely involved in discussions and superbly helpful as we clarified thoughts and recommendations.

Housing Task Force membership[1]

Ron Pruessen (Chair)	Parent Board Member, Opportunities Mississauga for 21+ years
Lynda Kahn (Vice-Chair)	Director of Development, Inclusion Press (Toronto) Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO)
Karen Belyea	Executive Director, Total Communication Environment (Ottawa)
Madeline Burghardt	Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario
Hélène Crevier	Director of Adult Support Services, Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa
Domenic D'Amore	Director/Facilitator, Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports
Jeff Dobbin	Executive Director, Partners for Planning, Toronto
Sandra Datars Bere	Managing Director, Housing, Social Services and Dearness Home, City of London
Jo-Anne Demick	Executive Director, Community Living Parry Sound
Jim Dunn	Associate Professor, McMaster University (Hamilton)
Bonnie Heath	Parent President, Scarborough Residential Alternatives
Lee Holling	Retired chief building official and former president of Community Living Ontario (Wallaceburg)
Ann Hysert	Parent Consultant, ARH & Associates Inc. (Merrickville)
Marge McCabe	Parent Registered Nurse (Ottawa)
Allan Mills	Executive Director, Extend-a-Family (Waterloo Region)
Leslie O'Reilly	Social Housing Consultant, City of Toronto
Elizabeth Sahl	President, People First Brockville

---

[1] Also members in August 2014 when the HTF was initiated: **Michael Barton** – Policy Director, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Assn; **Greg Bechard** –CEO, Elmira District Community Living; **John Policicchio**, Executive Director, Community Living Algoma (Sault Ste. Marie); **David Reid** – Mayor of Arnprior. These members played valued roles through various periods of time, but eventually found it necessary to leave the HTF because of other responsibilities.

PART II: HTF INITIATIVES

A. HOUSING DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
Expressions of Interest and Project Selection:

As part of its mandate to fund demonstration projects and develop a capacity-developing framework, the HTF released two Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for innovation housing demonstration projects in 2015:

- **First EOI, March 2015**: 80 submissions received; MCSS approved 12 recommended projects with $3.47 million of funding over 2 years.
- **Second EOI, December 2015**: 69 submissions received; MCSS approved 6 recommended projects with $2.13 million of funding over 2 years.

Approved proposals were required to:

- Develop partnerships between individuals, families, community agencies, multiple levels of government, and the private sector.
- Expand the range of housing options and choices available to adults with developmental disabilities and include options that are different from what was then funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services.
- Demonstrate ways to improve the existing developmental services system, including ways to reduce wait lists for housing and residential supports in a timely manner.
- Promote individualized approaches through inclusive, community-based supports.

The 18 demonstration projects were carefully selected to reflect attentiveness to a wide range of needs, opportunities, and strategies. The pilot projects ranged in approach and all demonstrated creativity and openness in tackling the issues at hand.

Summary of Funded Housing Projects:

A brief description of each of the 18 funded demonstration projects is given in the subsequent chart. This includes the project name and location; project lead and partners; and an overview of the project. In Appendix I, a more fulsome Summary Table of the Projects will also include: an Overview of Outcomes for each project; links to any online resources and information developed by project as well as links to more comprehensive descriptions of each project in the HTF Digital Booklet on the Partners for Planning (P4P) website; and current Contacts who can be reached for more information about the project.

1. BRIDGES to HOUSING, Toronto	
Summary:	This cross-sectoral collaboration will offer a multi-disciplinary, integrated, approach to provide housing and supports to individuals experiencing homelessness, who are identified with developmental disabilities with complex health needs, and reduce the reliance on other costly provincially funded services, and providing needed primary medical care, housing supports and case management support. Gaps in housing and support will be identified.
Partners:	City of Toronto: Seaton House, Streets to Homes; Community Living Toronto, Inner City Health Family Health Team; Surrey Place DSO Toronto Region; and St. Michael's Hospital and CAMH
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Bridges to Housing

2. COMMUNITY HUB RESIDENTIAL MODEL, Campbellford/Brighton	
Summary:	The project will review existing practices that may perpetuate an unintentional systematic disadvantage for aging people with developmental disabilities. This rural-based project will design and implement an innovative Community Hub and develop partnerships between the developmental services and health care sectors to provide supports to aging individuals with developmental disabilities in the surrounding rural areas to support continued independent living.
Partners:	Community Living Campbellford/Brighton; Community Care Access Centre (CCAC); Local Health Integration Network (LHIN); Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA); Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD); Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH); Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN); Community Care Northumberland; Victorian Order of Nurses; Trent Hills Palliative Care Collaboration Committee; Campbellford and District Community Mental Health
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Community Hub Residential Model

3. CONTINUING HOUSING INNOVATION IN WINDSOR COUNTY, Windsor-Essex	
Summary:	This family-led project by a Family Advisory Committee will bring together eight people along with their families/networks to create their own innovative, individualized housing arrangement with the support of Independent Facilitation. Some of these individualized housing proposals have been submitted previously to various access centres for up to 14 years as third party planning, now referred to as Independent Facilitation, has supported people and families in innovative housing proposal development, as this facilitation has been available for 20 years in Windsor/Essex County. Seven (7) of the 8 people live with many complexities. Eight (8) innovative housing arrangements, six of which include housing funding in partnership with the City of Windsor are expected to involve: renovations to added suites within existing homes; renovation of private home purchased by family; purchase of 2 private homes; a housing allowance to secure market rental apt; renovations to secondary suite, which requires extra funding; and completing renovations with in-kind contributions via private contractors
Partners:	Windsor-Essex Family Network; Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports; City of Windsor; Community Living Windsor; Private Contractors (Alliance General Contracting and Flex Custom Home Solutions)
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor Essex County **Additional Resources:** https://windsoressexfamnet.ca/continuing-housing-innovation/

4. THE BEAT GOES ON, Toronto	
Summary:	An innovative, person-centred plan leveraging individualized, integrated community partnerships enabling an individual with complex developmental and medical needs to live in a self-contained area in a family home and remain living in the community where her unique medical and developmental needs will be met. Through well-established and newly developed networks, D will live supported in a self-contained suite within the family home and continue living there when her parents are no longer able to care for her. The family will provide stability, continuity of care and knowledge transfer to those caring for D. Independent facilitation will be offered to benefit D, her family and personal network.
Partners:	Partners for Planning (P4P); Family and Friends; Personal Support Workers; Colleges; Agencies; DSO
Online:	P4P Project Overview: The Beat Goes On

5. HOUSING IS A COMMUNITY ISSUE, Central & Eastern Ontario	
Summary:	In this unique collaboration, a dedicated housing coordinator will help a number of families use typical community resources (e.g., banks, realtors) to find and secure the kind of housing that would best suit the person with the developmental disability, recognizing the family resources available and calling on personal networks for ideas and connections. Learnings will be shared with other families and agencies. Two family support organizations, two family-governed housing initiatives, two regional housing services, and a number of proactive families looking for housing for and with their member with a disability in two eastern regions, will partner to assist 4-6 families in their individual, person-centered approach to securing housing solutions via networking using typical community resources.
Partners:	Durham Association for Family Resources and Support; Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement; Intentionally Built Community family group; Durham Housing; Housing Leeds Grenville; Wall Street United Church; Legacy Homes; Proactive Families: Ordinary citizens; Family support orgs; Local planners and Developers, realtors, financers, and experts; Regional housing services and local housing tables
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Housing is a Community Issue **Housing website:** imagininghome.ca

6. HOUSING TRUST PROJECT, Ottawa	
Summary:	Partnering with Families Matter Cooperative, Citizen Advocacy Ottawa will examine how aging parents of individuals with developmental disabilities can develop housing trusts for homeownership and property management. This project responds to the need for information on how to bequeath homes to adult children with developmental disabilities. Families have indicated a preference for ensuring housing and support for daily living remains separate.
Partners:	Citizen Advocacy Ottawa; People with Disabilities and other informants; Local family groups; Families Matter Cooperative; United Families of Eastern Ontario (now Disability Advocacy Network of Eastern Ontario)
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Housing Trust Project **Additional Resources:** A Feasibility Study for a Housing Trust for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Ottawa-Carleton

7. IMAGINATIVE LIVING OPTIONS, Brantford	
Summary:	Partnering with the City of Brantford Housing Department, this project will look at how to best use existing resources in a variety of non-traditional ways, such as matching a senior living alone with someone with a developmental disability and develop a full range of imaginative and innovative housing and support options for adults with a developmental disability that are based on personal choice, rather than connected to traditional developmental services. Along with securing new housing options for participants, Community Living Brant will foster the creation of natural support networks to create a sense of belonging and contribution for and by the person within their community.
Partners:	Community Living Brant; Local university/college students; Local senior groups; City of Brantford's Affordable Housing project; Local landlords; Family, friends and other natural supports
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Imaginative Living Options

8. INTENSIVE INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT PROJECT, Toronto	
Summary:	The project will explore a housing arrangement for an individual with complex mental health needs. Montage Support Services will partner with Family Service Toronto to provide a residential support arrangement that offers emotional support, building daily living skills and routines, as well as supporting community engagement. The family partnership will explore the capital costs needed to sustain home ownership.
Partners:	Montage Support Services; Family Service Toronto; Family
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Intensive Individualized Support Project

9. NEIGHBOURLY HOMES, St Marys and Area	
Summary:	In partnership with the City of Stratford, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Habitat for Humanity, this project will introduce a "supportive neighbour" who is available for assistance and supports an individual with a developmental disability on a 24/7 basis helping a local person with a developmental disability to continue living as independently as possible in their own home. The supportive neighbour will receive affordable housing and a small per diem amount in exchange for providing support. This creative partnership with the private sector and local organizations will be a cost-effective way to support a young local person with a developmental disability to live independently, while enhancing social inclusion and increasingly local affordable housing.
Partners:	Community Living St. Marys and Area; Participant and her family; POL Quality Homes Inc.; City of Stratford; Housing Division; Habitat for Humanity; Developmental Services Ontario; Neighbourly support; Extended family; Housemate
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Neighbourly Homes

10. PETERBOROUGH TAY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PILOT PROJECT, Peterborough, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes

Summary:	Every year, approximately 1,000 children with a developmental disability turn 18 years old. This demonstration project will provide young adults the opportunity to learn daily living skills such as cooking and banking, so they are equipped to live more independently in their community. Partners include Community Living organizations in Peterborough, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes. This will be a two-phase project: A planning phase preceding a pilot project for transition housing for eligible young persons, Transition-Aged Youth (TAY) with developmental disabilities (and/or dual diagnosis), for up to two years. Primary project intention will be building youth capacity to move toward independent life and housing in the community, with or without ongoing supported independent living (SIL), as may be required. The project is based on sharing of existing housing resources—bricks and mortar, as well as attached support dollars—between MCCSS and MOHLTC/Ministry of Housing.
Partners:	Community Living Peterborough; Canadian Mental Health Association (Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge); Community Living Kawartha Lakes; Community Living Haliburton County; Tri-County Community Support Services
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Peterborough TAY Transitional Housing Pilot Project **Additional Resources:** Literature Review: Promising Models of Housing and Support for Transition-Aged Youth with Dual Diagnosis

11. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HEARTLAND, Listowel / London

Summary:	This will be the inaugural partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Community Living North Perth to create an affordable housing option for adults with developmental disabilities with low income. Habitat for Humanity will build a semi-detached house, with project funding to be used for staffing to provide the individuals with sufficient support to live independently in their new home. The collaboration intends to build a semi-detached, three-bedroom, 1 bath bungalow with about 950 sq. ft. on the main floor, on land procured from the Town of North Perth. One half of this new home will be designated for two men with a developmental disability, who have waited for many years to secure appropriate homes of their own, with appropriate 24 hour supports (one of whom has lived in a long-term care facility).
Partners:	Community Living North Perth; Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Habitat for Humanity Heartland

12. PERSON-DIRECTED FACILITATOR APPROACH, Smiths Falls

Summary:	Four adults with developmental disabilities with complex medical needs and mental health support needs, will move into their own apartments with personalized supports based on their own schedules, routines and requirements. With the individual, family and support networks will monitor, adjust and/or request changes that may be required, based on preferences of the person. Renovations on a three-story duplex home in the heart of Smiths Falls will provide modifications to ensure accessibility, safety and security and local community access. Accommodations will person-specific and person centered.
Partners:	Lanark Country Support Services; Lanark Housing; Lanark Mental Health; Developmental Support Services; Rideau Community Health Centre; Community Care Access Centre (CCAC); Family and personal support networks
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Person-Centered Facilitator Approach

13. JUST ENOUGH SUPPORT, Ottawa	
Summary:	This project will provide person-centered training and Just Enough Support to 12 adults with developmental disabilities and each of their family/support networks to develop and launch a support plan enabling each person to move into a home of their own. A Natural Neighbours program will recruit a minimum of 12 neighbours (one per person) to provide support and a friendly face in the immediate neighbourhood. Supportive neighbours and advocates will also help to build an inclusive community. By early 2017, six individuals will occupy their own one-bedroom, below-market rent unit, owned and operated by Multi-Faith Housing. By the start of 2018, six additional people will occupy their own one-bedroom below-market unit owned and operated by Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC).
Partners:	LiveWorkPlay; Participants and their family members; Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI); Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC); Neighbours and other citizens in the community; Mills Community Support; Just Enough Support Training
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Just Enough Support_LiveWorkPlay **Additional Resources:** Just Enough Support Video Series

14. WHY WAIT? York Region	
Summary:	Project intends to generate individualized housing solutions for eight adults with a developmental disability based on direction of and collaboration with people and families, prototyping four new housing options. Common components proposed to support long-term sustainability for each person to demonstrate the link between people directing their lives and Direct Funding and Fee-for-Service providers, to include: Independent Facilitation, the function of their Microboards™, strong Personal Support Networks, and third party quality oversight. Community learning series to support people and families in directing individualized solutions in intentional, proactive way; series also to increase information base, interest and capacity of service/support agencies and organizations to respond to people and families' interest in direct funding and individualized funding options, and engagement in supporting housing solutions.
Partners:	Montage Support Services, lead partner; York Support Services Network; York Region Lifetime Independent Facilitation (initially lead partner), stepped back from a role on the Project Steering Committee
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Why Wait

15. "DEVINE" LIFE, Sarnia / Lambton	
Summary:	The project will provide affordable housing through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity for two people with a developmental disability to move into a newly built home. In collaboration with community services, supports will be provided through the combined partnerships between the Circles Program of the Lambton College Social Services Department, Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS), and the commitment of family members.
Partners:	Lambton County Developmental Services; Habitat for Humanity; Family members (immediate and extended); Lambton College School of Community Services: Student Placements via Circles Program; Life Plan Facilitators
Online:	P4P Project Overview: A "Devine Life"

16. SMART SUPPORT-TECHNOLOGY ENABLED SERVICES, Essex County	
Summary:	Inclusive, affordable, community-based living for adults with a developmental disability will be possible by enhancing living spaces with innovative and advanced technology-enabled services. Smart Support –Technology Enabled Services will significantly reduce the cost of residential supports while enhancing community connections, independence, self-confidence, safety and security, and employment skills for people purchasing residential services. The latest technology is flexible and portable, can be customized for preferences, needs and available resources; can facilitate communication, answer a person's questions, provide safety mechanisms, educational resources, and access to direct support professionals as needed. During the first few months of the pilot, direct support workers will facilitate natural support connections, in order to increase independence and quality of life. Over a two-year period, support hours will be gradually reduced with the result being sustainable supports requiring less funded resources.
Partners:	Community Living Essex County; St. Clair College; University of Windsor; Imagine! SmartHomes; Onsite Services; John McGivney Children's Centre; Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Smart Support-Technology Enabled Services **Additional Resources:** Smart Support video, REAL Xchange offers more specific information on the Smart Support Project

17. DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICE WORKER CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, Ottawa	
Summary:	Individuals, families, agencies, educators, government representatives and Developmental Services Workers will address lack of available support services readily accessed on individuals' terms, in their own homes. New worker co-operatives will offer nimble, community-based, person-directed supports to adults with disabilities, wherever those adults choose to live. Community consultations will inform a feasibility study of the development of a developmental services worker-owned co-operative to offer nimble, community-based, person-directed supports to adults with disabilities, wherever those adults choose to live. The process of establishing and managing worker co-operatives will be assessed and learning materials to address those needs will be developed. Worker co-operative business development support will be provided to developmental services workers interested in starting a DSW Co-operative. Through this project, a co-operative business developer will provide support throughout the business plan development process.
Partners:	Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology; United Families of Eastern Ontario (now Disability Advocacy Network of Eastern Ontario); LiveWorkPlay
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Developmental Service Worker Cooperative Development Project **Additional Resources:** DSW Co-op website

18. PASSAGE VERS MON PROPRE TOIT (MOVING TO MY OWN PLACE), Ottawa	
Summary:	This project will create self-evaluation and lessons learned tools and resources to help individuals, families, guardians and stakeholders: reduce administrative work; and define individualized housing solutions and practical support requirements for adults with developmental disabilities, to help address the lack of affordable housing in their neighborhood, that is, close to their support network, particularly in the Ottawa-Orléans area. CFFO will develop a Housing Transition Guide called *Moving to a Place of my Own!* which aims to encourage the independence of people with developmental disabilities in their search for support and affordable housing. The project will focus on supporting 11 adults and their families by creating resources, sharing knowledge and developing partnerships to build capacity to make a smooth transition to housing offering the greatest independence possible, in a safe environment within their community. The resource of Independent Facilitation will be offered to individuals and families. The final report will describe the issues and avenues for reflection for participants and their families, stakeholders, regional coordination bodies for housing with integrated support, local agencies, government program managers, and all other individuals or groups interested in housing transition issues for people with developmental disabilities.
Partners:	la Coalition des familles francophones d'Ottawa (CFFO); l'Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa (AISO); le Regroupement des partenaires francophones d'Ottawa; Developmental Services Ontario Eastern Region (DSO Eastern Region); University of Ottawa; La Cité; Ministry of Community and Social Services.
Online:	P4P Project Overview: Passage Vers Mon Toit **Additional Resources:** Guide (FR) Guide (EN) Leçons (FR) Lessons (EN) Coming Together 2018: My Home, My Community! Seminar 1: The Provincial Vision (video) Seminar 1: The Provincial Vision (presentation) All documents CFFO landing page CFFO's last update

Liaison Process:

Once funding for each of the 18 projects was initiated, the HTF established a liaison process, in which 1-2 members of the HTF were assigned to each project, in order to maintain contact. Liaisons included both formal communication (interviews and visits) and informal communication (brief phone calls and emails). This allowed the members of the HTF to learn first-hand about the successes, challenges, learnings, and emergent unintended outcomes of each project. This process assisted the HTF in its preparations to undertake an evaluation of each of the funded projects in the Fall of 2017. The information gained from the liaisons as well as the evaluation informs, in part, the final recommendations of the Housing Task Force to the Ministry outlined in this report.

Project Evaluation:

Between September and December 2017, each of the 18 funded projects participated in a Housing Task Force-initiated evaluation. The HTF sent a *Project Outcome Evaluation Template* to the contact person for the lead agency of each project and also to the project partners and HTF Liaisons assigned to the project. The template included a series of critical questions that project teams were asked to reflect on and answer. Through this process the HTF hoped to:

- Learn more about how each project was implemented and the outcomes that have been achieved (including unintended outcomes).
- Invite project partners to share what they have learned through the project.
- Identify the positive achievements, high points, moments of cooperation, and the "value added" of each project, in order to build on these strengths going forward.

The process helped inform the Task Force's recommendations to the Ministry for potential solutions to the housing crisis faced by adults with developmental disabilities.[2]
Specifically, the evaluations were designed to provide information regarding the projects':

- **Impacts** (i.e. what impact has the project had on individuals, families, and other stakeholders?)
- **Successes and challenges** (i.e. what were critical factors / barriers to success? How did the project use resources, partnerships, and other ideas to obtain success?)
- **Systems change impacts** (i.e. what can be learned from this project that informs decisions at the community or systems levels?)

In completing the template, project teams and delivery partners were encouraged to collaborate to discuss learnings. The questions were intended to be a springboard for further conversation with HTF Liaisons. Follow-up interviews were conducted (either by phone or by on-site visits by respective HTF project liaisons) after receiving the templates.

---

[2] An example of the evaluation template is included in the Appendix.

A third-party evaluator was contracted through the MCSS to conduct an independent evaluation process between February and September 2018. This work was done separately from the ongoing review and evaluation process of the HTF.

B. COMMUNICATION WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Two of the objectives of the HTF specifically addressed the need to expand and support already existing communication networks in the wider community. To that end, the HTF implemented a number of public engagement, outreach, and communication activities to assist individuals and families to access information, network, and collaborate with each other in the search for successful housing options. These endeavours included:

Facebook Page

Members of the HTF launched a Facebook page dedicated to public discussion and information-sharing about housing concerns and ideas for innovation. The Facebook group currently has over 1600 members who are encouraged to participate in conversation about topics related to housing issues and solutions. Agency staff and families are highly engaged, regularly posting new information and updates concerning housing, housing resources, funding, and available options. The HTF has also used the Facebook page to continue conversations that emerged at the Ministers' Housing Forum in November 2016 by posting follow-up questions and summaries of responses. In September 2016, the Adult Protective Service Association of Ontario awarded its annual Media Award to the HTF for its Facebook group. The HTF is committed to ensuring that this platform will continue to be available to its members after the end of this mandate; in late Fall 2018, the HTF began to transition administration of the Facebook page to the P4P Planning Network.

Housing Task Force Digital Brochure on the P4P Planning Network site

Members of the HTF developed an online brochure with the support of the P4P Planning Network, offering a free and accessible guide to interested stakeholders and community members. This brochure includes details about the 18 approved demonstration projects at the time they were funded in 2015-2016. The Digital Guide is periodically updated to offer more current summaries of the projects and can be found at this link for the Housing Task Force: 18 Innovative Housing Solutions.

Connectability.ca

Developmental Services Ontario's Connectability website now has a repository for a range of housing resources. In September 2015, the HTF held a webcast to provide an overview of the HTF and its goals.

Community Presentations

      Members of the HTF have made presentations to a variety of local and provincial community groups, family groups, and agency partners, including:

- Community Living Toronto
- Community Living Ontario's Housing Forums, 2014 and 2015
- Community Living Ontario's Annual Conferences, September 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018
- Autism Ontario
- Ontario Municipal Social Service Managers Association, December 2016
- Toronto Developmental Services Alliance (TDSA) Housing Forum, November 2017

      These presentations have been instrumental in advising people of the work of the HTF, facilitating the sharing of innovative ideas between community members, and building community-based networks.

Connections with Community Housing Experts

      The HTF has welcomed community housing experts to monthly meetings, with the intention of strengthening housing networks and increasing members' knowledge of work that is unfolding at the ground level. These have included:

- Heather Tremain, Options for Homes
- Marty Graf, Community Living Tillsonburg and the Green Energy Fund
- Frances MacNeil, Community Living Toronto and the Toronto Developmental Services Alliance Housing Subcommittee
- Yona Lunsky, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
  - Yona provided an overview of the Healthcare Access Research and Developmental Disabilities Initiative (H-CARDD), January 2017
- Ivey Business School, University of Western Ontario
  - Graduate students presented on potential revenue models for sustainable housing, October 2017.

      These presentations have informed the work of the Task Force regarding innovative ideas within already existing networks.

Government Presentations and Interaction

The HTF has participated in sessions with members of various branches of government relevant to housing issues for people with developmental disabilities. These include presentations by:

- The Office of the Fire Marshal regarding fire code requirements
- The Ministry of Housing regarding the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy
- The Ministry of Economic Development and Growth regarding social enterprises;
- Representatives from MCSS Minister's Office and from the Premier's Office in January 2017 to discuss the need for a financial commitment from the government for housing for people with a developmental disability

The HTF has also submitted written responses and recommendations to various government sectors. These include submissions to relevant affordable housing consultation efforts, such as those undertaken by the City of Toronto's *Housing Opportunities Toronto* and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, as well as recommendations to the Ministry of Housing's *Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy*, July 2015.

In November 2016, the HTF consulted on and participated in the *Ministers' Housing Forum*, an event co-hosted by the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Housing to discuss housing for people with developmental disabilities. The forum, with a morning webcast session followed by afternoon roundtable discussions at five locations across the province, was an opportunity to hear the public's views on what the government can do to help reduce barriers, improve opportunities, and support the creation of inclusive housing for people with developmental disabilities. Housing Task Force members participated in each of the five events and facilitated roundtable discussions.

In early 2017, the HTF made recommendations to the Ministry of Finance's pre-budget hearings, requesting that additional resources be directed to MCSS, specifically to:

- Increase the *Ontario Disability Support Program Maximum Monthly Shelter Allowance* to reflect local market costs.
- Avoid expensive housing crisis situations by supporting partnerships between families, community agencies, government, and the private sector.
- Increase funding for the hiring of more front-line staff to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

The HTF also made written recommendations to the Ministry of Labour, in response to Bill 148, the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act* (December 2017) by providing input to the *Special Rules and Exemptions for Homemakers, Domestic Workers and Residential Care* consultation process. A letter sent to the Ministry of Labour in December 2017 outlined two primary areas of concern:

- Identification and exemption of host families from *Employment Standards Act* legislation
- Redefinition of the category of 'Residential Care Workers' to be more inclusive of unique and progressive models of care provision and support.

C. WORK OF THE HOUSING TASK FORCE SUB-COMMITTEES

In order to identify and study areas of concern in greater depth and to more knowledgeably inform final recommendations, the HTF established five working sub-committees from the membership of the Task Force:

Technology Committee

This committee examined how technology can help support people to find, secure, and maintain safe and meaningful housing arrangements and how technology can have a positive impact on both quality of life and cost efficiencies.

Project Evaluation Committee

This committee contributed to the summarization of liaison work and information gathered from each of the demonstration projects, including the results of piloting the *Project Outcome Evaluation* form with a limited number of demonstration projects, before finalizing the template.

Communication / Information Committee

This committee monitored and maintained the HTF's Gmail account and Facebook group, developed the digital online brochure on the P4P Planning Network site, monitored family and stakeholder groups for opportunities for HTF participation (conferences, events, etc.), and shared details of upcoming events and community opportunities with the HTF. This committee has also developed content for a legacy information portal that will continue to provide online resources beyond the HTF mandate.

Supports Committee

This committee identified alternate options and support models, conducted research on how other jurisdictions develop and fund supports, and identified and shared examples of creative and innovative support arrangements.

Physical Housing / Dwellings Committee wait list
This includes housing affordability, rent supplements, financial supports, and 'bricks and mortar'

This committee considered methods of financial support that can make physical housing possible, such as wealth leveraging and the possible role of Microboards^{TM} and personal support circles or networks. This committee also examined conditions necessary to support individuals and families to build or renovate their homes or to create new options.

D. EXTENDED MANDATE, 2017-2018

Early in Year 2 of the HTF's mandate, it became clear that, while much had been implemented and accomplished, an extension to the HTF's mandate would be helpful in realizing its goals. In a preliminary report to the Ministry in April 2016, the HTF made a number of initial recommendations, including:

- Extension of the HTF mandate for an additional two years.
- Government commitment to budgetary increases to continue research and consultation efforts.
- Introduction of new members to the HTF to broaden perspectives and expertise.
- Creation of an inter-ministerial entity to encourage cooperation between various stakeholders.

The HTF mandate was successfully extended for an additional two years, which came to an end in September 2018. Since the extension, the Task Force has streamlined the liaison process for the 18 demonstration projects and has developed an evaluation approach aimed at gleaning the most pertinent learnings from each project, as well as identifying features tied to possibilities for ongoing funding.

In this second part of its mandate, the HTF has continued to encourage a 'whole of government' approach with respect to solutions to the severe shortage of housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities and their families, as well as the importance of engagement of people with disabilities, their families, local municipalities, and developmental service sector allies and agencies in the practical implementation of solutions that can inform policy and government. As outlined in pages 16-18 of this Introduction, this 'whole of government' approach has included developing regular interaction with key ministries, ongoing participation in consultations and forums with community groups and government officials, and making recommendations to relevant parties.

PART III: RECOMMENDATIONS

Over its four-year mandate, the Developmental Services Housing Task Force (HTF) has worked diligently to explore and gain a deeper understanding of the issues and complexities that have contributed to the severe housing shortage faced by people with developmental disabilities and their families in Ontario. Through various opportunities, including research initiatives, knowledge-sharing forums, and, most significantly, the review and recommendation of 18 innovative housing demonstration projects (as outlined in Part II of this report), the HTF has amassed a significant amount of experience, examples, insights, and key learnings that were instrumental in the formulation and detailing of the following 13 recommendations and associated action items: these are being presented to the government of Ontario in this Final Report.

As stated in the preface to this report, the HTF is steadfast in its belief that there is no one single, magic bullet available for ending the housing crisis. This will no doubt be a long and complex process, one that cannot be eliminated with quick fixes or one-size-fits-all solutions. The endeavour will require stamina, a desire for real change, and substantive commitments - over many years, from multiple partners. What the HTF has identified within this Final Report are a number of pathways to tangible solutions, built out as specific recommendations, that we believe should be implemented concurrently and with immediacy, in order to effectively address the complex, yet interconnected concerns related to the availability and access to innovative housing for individuals with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

Albert Einstein had it right when he said: "We cannot solve our problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." The translation of this within the Developmental Services realm is that as a community, our thinking must continuously evolve, and new ideas must be brought forth, if we hope to make impactful and long-lasting change. In other words, the province of Ontario and its citizens must be prepared and have access to the tools required to innovate. And, in order to support and sustain a culture of innovation, we must be free to generate and develop ideas with a clear goal in mind. Of course, the sole intention of generating ideas is not innovating. An idea only becomes actual innovation when it has been implemented in a form that generates value – or enables action.

Over the years, the Housing Task Force has developed a deep appreciation for the crucial role that idea generation and knowledge sharing plays in enabling action – the kind of action that results in innovative housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities and their families. This was particularly evident within the preliminary review process by the HTF that led to the identification of the 18 specific demonstration projects recommended for MCSS (now MCCSS) support and funding (a summary of these projects can be found in the Introduction of this Report on pages 7-13). Without the generation of ideas, both big and

small, and the simultaneous enabling of action and tangible outcomes, none of these extraordinary projects would have even been possible, nor would they have succeeded as such exemplary illustrations of leading edge practice that addresses the varied housing needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

Building out from this fundamental approach, the HTF has developed a series of recommendations to government and the province, presenting them within two specific streams – <u>recommendations for generating ideas</u>, and <u>recommendations for enabling action</u>. Recommendations are further divided into subsections to identify ways in which ideas can be generated and actions can be enabled through specific sectors of society with a vested interest in these issues – with particular emphasis on 'whole of government' approaches, 'whole of society' approaches, and approaches that tap into the 'lived experience' of individuals, families, and their networks – aiming to empower those who are most impacted by outcomes.

Overall, this report and the HTF's recommendations that follow support a general shift towards a 'systems' approach – one that looks at the situation as an interconnected whole, rather than as a singular 'project' or 'model-specific' approach towards tackling the developmental services housing crisis in Ontario. We believe that this will be essential if the housing needs of individuals and their families are to be met in the years to come.

Government often speaks to funding investment in innovation, but, just as often, individuals and their families do not experience tangible improvement. To "transform" the current system, government must explore and embrace approaches that have <u>not</u> been used to date – <u>or</u> have not been used sufficiently. The challenge is not always solely about funding. Meaningful, effective problem solving also requires the development of an actionable plan – gathering up options, weighing possibilities, prioritizing promising next steps, and evaluating results for real-life impact. For example, it is important to evaluate whether a program like Passport has had the impact at an individual or personal level that the Ministry thought it would or if there is a gap between the intended impact envisioned at the Ministry level and what is experienced and recognized on a daily basis by the individual. Overall, the HTF sees a shift in focus towards greater accountability and evaluation of 'end of the line' impact as a necessary component to all future policy and programming actions – an objective that is strongly emphasized throughout the report and within each Recommendation.

SECTION I: GENERATING IDEAS

In the 21st century, we often hear references to a "knowledge economy" – creative thinking and questioning of the status quo designed to encourage economic growth – as a stage for modernization, global development, and restructuring. It is a phase marked by advancements and disruption caused by technological innovations, as well as the globally competitive need for innovation involving new products and "research & development" initiatives in varied settings (i.e., universities, laboratories, government departments, and corporations).

When it comes to Developmental Services, we know that movement towards realizing genuinely impactful innovation continues to be slow-paced and complicated. The reasons for this are numerous. In some ways, the pace reflects the problems of moving any large bureaucratic system in new directions. In this particular area as well, it would be impossible to discount the fact that people with developmental disabilities are often the most marginalized members of society, challenged to mobilize the resources or communication opportunities that others have used to vigorously advocate on their own behalf. This, in turn, complicates the broader community's readiness to patiently pay attention; people with developmental disabilities may be constrained in their ability to advocate, in other words, but all of us have sometimes listened less effectively than we might have.

The HTF applauds the fact that the Ministry of Community and Social Services (now the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services - MCCSS) has taken positive steps towards the development of a more inclusive and collaborative environment in recent years, for example, through joint programming with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on a dual diagnosis framework, long-term care home sector guidelines, and work on updating Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. As well, under the previous government, a $12.5 million investment geared towards improving access to services, including additional Adult Protective Service Workers (APSWs), funding for Family Support Networks, and expanding service navigation, could be seen as steps in the right direction.[1]

However, a number of barriers continue to hinder positive momentum and impactful changes to wait list numbers and tangible results, such as a lack of efficient and consistent communication with individuals with disabilities and family members, as well as complicated rules and procedures that often fail to consider the diverse needs and desires of an individual. Consultation with individuals, families, and others 'on the ground' suggests that there is still much to be done.

---

[1] https://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/programs/developmental/improving/index.aspx

At a housing forum held in Eastern Ontario in 2012, one mother, facing a waiting list of approximately 14,000 individuals, said, "It would take a bloody miracle to see my son get the services that he requires in my life time." She was 91 years old at the time, and her son was living at home with her and her sister. She has since passed away. Her son has moved from home and still faces an uncertain future. – anecdotal evidence provided by a member of the HTF

Following the November 2016 Ministers' Housing Forum, the HTF continued to engage with the 1600+ members of the DS Housing Task Force Facebook community, asking about desired topics for future housing forums and ongoing consultations. While responses were numerous, a few key themes stood out: the importance of partnerships, concerns with housing affordability, individualized approaches to funding and supports, questions about transitional planning, interest in advancements in assistive technology, and an overall desire for more opportunities for knowledge gathering and information sharing.

More than ever before, a robust, well-informed, and action-oriented DS-specific 'knowledge economy' is needed to help bridge the gap between Ministry policy objectives and implementation and real change for Ontarians with developmental disabilities. The developmental services sector needs a 'knowledge economy' that is purposefully built to identify and address the specific wishes, desires, and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. This requires commitment from all levels of government - as well as individuals, their families, agencies, networks, and members of the private sector (for example, research institutes, universities, housing developers, employers and others with a connection to housing and developmental services) - to support any and all opportunities for idea generation, research and testing, gathering and implementation of exchangeable knowledge and learnings from other sectors/regions, and more.

The 18 housing demonstration projects recommended for funding by the HTF have been especially instrumental in proving the value of ideas and knowledge gained through collaborations, partnerships, research, and consultations to push forward opportunities for smart, creative, and flexible housing solutions for Ontarians with developmental disabilities. In fact, many of the demonstration project innovations were made possible precisely because of idea-generating cross-collaborations and research initiatives – developing environments that allowed for innovation to flourish. For example:

- The Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Innovative Housing Model was created through a collaborative partnership between community mental health services (CMHA) and developmental services (Community Living Peterborough, Community Living Central Highlands, and Tri-County Community Support Services) that guided the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project.

- Bridges to Housing was led by a project leadership partnership between the City of Toronto, Inner City Family Health Team, Community Living Toronto, and Surrey Place Centre to identify solutions for men and women with developmental disabilities who experience homelessness. Cross-sector, multidisciplinary teams were developed to work responsively to assist people in gaining time-sensitive eligibility to the DS system, as well as housing and supports responsive to the complexity of need and life circumstance.

- Housing is a Community Issue was an ambitious collaboration between Durham Association for Family Resources and Support, Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement, Intentionally Built Community family group, Durham Housing, Housing Leeds Grenville, Wall Street United Church, Legacy Homes, regional housing services and local housing tables, proactive families, ordinary citizens, family support organizations, and local planners and developers, realtors, financers, and experts. The project advanced the principle that housing is a community issue and challenged the assumption that people with disabilities are just looked after by MCCSS services, rather than by their families and communities.

A complete overview of demonstration projects, partners, outcomes and learnings is included in Appendix I.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge here that the HTF received and reviewed approximately 280 valuable proposals following the two calls for Expressions of Interest in 2014 and 2015, which in itself demonstrates the scale of idea-generation that exists at the front lines. Ultimately, the 18 demonstration projects chosen for (then) MCSS funding were seen as providing the best opportunity for the HTF to gather tangible insights into the potential for innovative evolution of the Developmental Services sector. Going beyond the idea of simple replication, these projects identified explicit person-centred ideas and actions that highlight actionable innovation and an expanded universe for yet greater accomplishments.

With an eye towards achieving more of this kind of evolutionary change, the HTF proposes the following 7 recommendations geared towards the "generation of ideas" – specifically aimed at the development of a dedicated DS-focused "knowledge economy" and an emphasis on future-forward thinking. These recommendations are intended to generate impactful and measurable outcomes and, ultimately, to enable action that will address the complex housing needs of people with developmental disabilities in a timely and relevant manner.

It should also be noted that reference to 'research' within this report does not necessarily equate to funded formal studies and research ventures. The HTF references research defined in its broadest sense – as an organized, multi-faceted, and efficient

investigation into and exploration of materials and sources to help establish facts and reach new conclusions.

A. "WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT" APPROACHES: CROSS-MINISTERIAL COLLABORATION

The following sub-section addresses the need for greater and more meaningful collaborative effort between government leaders and includes recommendations for Ministries (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, among others) to work collaboratively with each other towards 1) generating concrete ideas and initiatives and 2) conducting a much-needed and open review of current policy and 'rules' that may be preventing innovations and more creative use of resources.

To effectively tackle the breadth of essential services and supports that live under the umbrella of 'housing,' the HTF's recommendations for "whole of government" approaches also propose broadening collaborative reach to include Federal and Municipal levels of government. In addition, recommendations within this section emphasize the significance of "supports" as fundamental rights that go well beyond housing in the physical sense to include basic and interconnected needs such as access to education, healthcare, employment, parks and recreation-related opportunities, social and community programs, affordable housing options, and much more.

The basic underlying principle that drives this approach is a vision of citizenship for people with developmental disabilities – one that prioritizes choice, dignity, agency, pride, confidence, self-worth, high quality of life, and overall well-being. Simply put, like anyone else in the province of Ontario, people with developmental disabilities are entitled to access varied services and supports. If government is committed to supporting this fundamental right effectively, it must work as cohesively as possible to ensure equal opportunity and easy, efficient access to funding, services, and supports across the board.

Recommendation 1: Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF)
The Housing Task Force recommends the formation of an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) charged with identifying and developing opportunities for "whole of government" initiatives. The IMHTF would both address and look beyond the current crisis, in order to develop transformative steps that would prevent the re-emergence of crisis situations in the future.

The Housing Task Force has increasingly come to appreciate the great complexity of the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities. Although we would not have imagined that the needs were simple (or easily met) when we began our work in 2014, the more we have mapped the challenges, the more complicated they have come to appear. Our fellow citizens with developmental disabilities are a very diverse segment of the population

(in a very diverse province): ages range from early adulthood to the senior years, with all of the life stage variations and transitions this range entails; the locations where they live include cities, suburbs, towns, northern and rural settings across the extensive length and breadth of Ontario; needs related to housing stretch across a wide spectrum, with many permutations involving both literal "housing" (apartments, condominiums, houses, municipal shelters, etc.) and "supports" (greater and lesser levels of desirable staff assistance, in particular). Especially important in a time when our society has come to honour the importance of person-centered and person-directed planning, there are many different hopes and goals in play when housing opportunities are being sought.

Against this backdrop, the HTF believes that the provincial government should increase the vigour of existing efforts to have its approach to the housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities more fully mirror the complexity of the challenges. In particular, further steps should be taken to move away from the tendency to perceive issues affecting the developmental services sector as the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). This is certainly true with respect to housing.

In recent years, MCCSS has had much to be proud of, as it has strengthened responses to the needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities. A broad transformation agenda has led to meaningful initiatives – including the closing of large congregate institutions and their isolating, even dehumanizing impact on residents; the launch of a Passport program designed to give individuals and families resources needed for richer engagement with their communities; greater encouragement and funding for early and professionally supported planning efforts; attentiveness to opportunities for innovative options and solutions (including the creation of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force presenting this "Generating Ideas/Enabling Action: report); expanded budget commitments to allow targeted reductions of the wait list for housing (focused on Transition Aged Youth and individuals with particularly complex needs, for example). The cumulative needs of the developmental services sector are so great, however, that high levels of frustration within MCCSS must compete constantly with justifiable pride and satisfaction. On the housing front, in particular, the number of people with developmental disabilities requiring opportunities to move beyond the family home grows greater rather than less.

Additional resources are clearly required, but a number of the Housing Task Force's recommended (and funded) demonstration projects have confirmed that it would be highly desirable to see increases in the MCCSS budget supplemented by other initiatives. These projects – and their successes – have shown the advantages of breaking down existing government silos and moving toward a "whole of government" approach and a more cost-effective delivery structure.

Examples of demonstration projects that highlighted successful 'whole of government,' cross-sector collaborative approaches were outlined at the beginning of this section of the report. A few additional examples include:

- <u>Neighbourly Homes</u> - Led by Community Living St. Marys and Area (CLSMA), this creative partnership among participants, families, agencies, private sector, and local organizations is a cost-effective way to support a local young person with a disability to live independently while enhancing social inclusion. Of note, CLSMA has representation on the Housing First Committee and continues to work in partnership with the Housing Division of the City of Stratford to support people with disabilities to obtain affordable housing.

- <u>Person-Directed Facilitator Approach</u> – Lanark County has had a long history of agencies working together, which was clearly evidenced in this demonstration project headed by Lanark County Support Services. The "Whole of County" approach to services, including partnerships with Lanark Housing, Lanark Mental Health, Developmental Support Services, Rideau Community Health Centre, Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), and other support and family networks is intended to ensure a more responsive, cost effective delivery of services overall. Without this collaborative project in place, the individuals living in their own apartments would have required a higher level of support than the traditional Supported Independent Living (SIL) supports and, therefore, would have remained on a waiting list for a higher-cost (and less effective) traditional model.

A complete Overview of Projects can be found in Appendix I, where several other projects with cross-sector collaborative approaches are described, including:

- Bridges to Housing
- Beat Goes On
- Continuing Innovation in Windsor and Essex Counties
- Community Hub Residential Model
- Housing is a Community Issue
- Imaginative Living Options Brantford
- Peterborough TAY Transitional Housing Project
- Habitat for Humanity Heartland
- Just Enough Support

Other ministries have expertise and resources relevant to the varied needs of the individuals requiring support. Because these individuals are full-fledged citizens of this province – not simply people with particular needs – they deserve access to the full-fledged capacities of their government.

The desire to tap the experience and potential contributions of the "whole of government" lies behind Recommendation 1: ***The formation of an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) charged with identifying and developing opportunities for "whole of government" initiatives. The IMHTF would both address and look beyond the current crisis in order to develop transformative steps that would prevent the re-emergence of crisis situations in the future.***

- Collaboration within the provincial government should be one area of special concern for the IMHTF, but attention should also be directed to the expansion of cooperating initiatives between multiple layers of government (e.g., federal and municipal/regional).

- The IMHTF's mandate and terms of reference should encompass both study and action. Deliberations and investigations, that is, should be designed to generate both guiding principles and annual proposals for specific demonstration projects. (Further discussion of this activation dimension of the IMHTF's work is included in "Enabling Action": Recommendations 9.

- With respect to its contribution to "Generating Ideas," the IMHTF should see its work as multifaceted and evolutionary in nature. Early on, for instance, it could engage in what might be seen as an "awareness" exercise – using cross-sector discussions to identify the ways in which the housing challenges of adults with developmental disabilities relate to what are often seen as "other," seemingly distinct issues like health care (for the individual and her/his family), employment, affordable housing, poverty reduction, citizenship, lifelong learning, etc. As well, however, such awareness should quickly lead to consideration of the relevance of experiences and initiatives in varied areas of government responsibilities: what have ministries like Health & Long-Term Care (including the LHINs), Housing, Education, Citizenship, etc. learned about effective efforts for addressing a broad range of social, economic, and human needs – and how might past achievements and leading edge approaches in different terrains be applied to the housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities? Focused discussions – with the expectation that they will lead to action proposals – would hold the potential for cross-fertilization and the harvesting of precisely those kinds of ideas that would grow the "knowledge economy" needed to support a transformed developmental services sector.

One particularly promising area for IMHTF consideration would be the design of a more "whole of government" approach to funding streams relevant to housing for adults with developmental disabilities. Long-established practice has been driven by a crisis response system that has – as the size of the wait list disturbingly demonstrates – left thousands of Ontarians without the housing supports they need and want. The IMHTF should investigate and help design a more flexible and multi-faceted approach to funding that will match needed attentiveness to individual and family crises with actions recognizing the great value of pro-active, person-centered/person-directed, and partnership-based planning. Such a multi-

faceted approach would reduce the tragic consequences of individuals remaining on the wait list for decades and simultaneously reduce the high costs almost invariably arising when people are pushed to a crisis point before services become available. The HTF's concern for pro-active planning – by government at various levels, by individuals and families and by agencies – will be regularly evident in this report: see Recommendations 8, 11, 13 for example.

To maximize the information and insights available to the IMHTF, its membership should include representatives of relevant ministries and government departments as well as the broader community. Under the former heading: MCCSS, the Premier's Office, MOHLTC, MMAH, Finance, Citizenship, Poverty Reduction, Education. Under the latter heading: representatives of individuals receiving or desiring housing opportunities, grassroots family networks, local agencies, municipal/regional government and service managers.

- The IMHTF should have an initial three-year mandate, with the possibility of extension.
- Responsibility for day-to-day organization of the work of the IMHTF should rest with the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and the Minister should chair meetings.
- The IMHTF should prepare an annual report for the Premier. The annual reports should include at least several recommendations for specific projects and policy initiatives designed to demonstrate the potential value of "whole of government" approaches to the housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

Recommendation 2: **Inter-ministerial Policy Review**
A wide-ranging policy research and review should be undertaken, led by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and supported by ministries with related and relevant concerns (e.g. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services) and municipalities. The research would serve to identify current policy (and existing rules and directives) that may be limiting innovation as well as the most effective use of funding and supports.

Time and time again, through open dialogue, feedback from members of the broader community, and ongoing liaison work and review of the 18 housing demonstration projects, the HTF has heard about systemic inconsistencies, inflexible policies and overarching barriers that have limited innovation and the resourceful use of funding and supports for housing. Acknowledging that some level of creativity would be necessary for the fostering of innovation, the HTF found particular value in the 18 housing demonstration projects as they each explored opportunities that pushed the envelope towards greater innovation and advancement in housing options for people with developmental disabilities across the province.

Falling within the Ministry's innovation agenda, these 18 demonstration projects were supported under the MCSS Act legislation distinctive from what is currently in place to govern DS funded agencies (i.e. Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008.) In some cases, a more flexible re-interpretation of funding structures (i.e. project detail codes) at the regional level was instrumental in the development of leading-edge initiatives and in the realization of highly positive outcomes and impactful change for individuals with developmental disabilities. At the same time, project outcome assessments easily identified a number of specific barriers, some identified repeatedly, within current funding regulations that could not be circumvented. For example, in their Key Lessons Learned report, <u>Passage Vers Mon Propre Toit (Moving to a Place of My Own)</u>, a project led by La Coalition des Familles Francophones d'Ottawa (CFFO) that aimed to support 11 individuals and their families by creating tools, sharing knowledge and developing partnerships to encourage independence in their search for supports and affordable housing, various challenges and barriers to service were identified.

Some examples of problematic policies and obstacles that have been identified in communications with the HTF by CFFO and others:

- When people with developmental disabilities and their loved ones tried to work within the levels and structures of the system, they were sometimes confronted with unyielding policies, regulations and procedures that became serious structural challenges. For example, MCSS does not provide funding for anything that falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing, which receives funding from all three levels of government.
- If a person moves into a shared home with integrated residential support and receives funding for support, they are entitled to that funding as long as they stay within the same agency. Otherwise, they will lose the funding.
- If a person receives a subsidy for support services for independent living, the subsidy will continue only as long as they meet the initial criteria, such as living in the geographic area served by the agency.
- Because the funds allocated to a person come from the agency, it is the agency that determines eligibility criteria. If the person needs or wants to change the agency providing support because of a move, they will lose their funding and will need to go back onto a wait list, such as that of Developmental Services Ontario (DSO), to get new funding. Clearly, it would be preferable for allocated funding to follow the person, regardless of which agency is providing the support.

These collective learnings have revealed what the HTF considers to be a significant and inevitable requirement: a serious need for government to commit to undertaking a ***wide ranging inter-ministerial policy research and review initiative to identify current policy (and existing rules and directives) that may be hindering innovation and resourceful use of***

funding and supports relevant to the development of innovative housing solutions for adults with developmental disabilities. In particular, government will need to commit to reviewing existing regulations that are problematic through enforcement (or rigidity of enforcement) as well as those that are limiting by omission. For instance, in the first category, a look at the severe limitations placed on planning and action that involves contributions of resources by families (and the instances where some are able to 'get ahead' by leveraging knowledge and connections); and in the second category, the lack of effective policy and resource responses to pro-active planning by individuals and families (those working with independent facilitators or more creative agencies and community partners).

Ideally set up as a component of the work to be undertaken by an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF), as outlined in Recommendation 1, this Inter-ministerial Policy Review initiative would work towards breaking down barriers to allow for greater flexibility, leading to greater opportunity for future housing innovations.

- MCCSS would lead this wide-ranging policy review initiative, with input from ministries with related or relevant concerns (e.g. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services) <u>as well as</u> municipalities and the 47 Service Managers/City Service Managers who are tasked with delivery of housing services for members of the DS community within the broader guidelines concerning 'people with disabilities'.
- The IMHTF, and consequently MCCSS, should aim to seek out specific feedback, real-life experiences and examples of "policy in action" from individuals and families, agencies, as well as MCCSS Program Supervisors and Managers and other community/support stakeholders who assist in providing supports within communities on a daily basis. The HTF knows that it will be critical that MCCSS receive input from front line staff, at all levels of government and agencies, and without fear of reprisal or funding cuts. Both the province and MCCSS have previously been able to undertake quality improvement initiatives and to respond to stakeholder recommendations. Just recently, for example, the government launched <u>Consultation: Review of Ontario government spending</u>. A similar approach, taken towards the improvement and modernization of regulatory systems for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario, would prove invaluable. Further advice for the implementation of this action is included in Recommendation 7 of this Final Report.
- Consultations with those on the front lines would yield benefits in two ways: first, by pinpointing obstacles and difficulties that current policies and variable interpretations of them pose to individuals and families looking for innovative housing solutions and second, by identifying leading-edge initiatives that ultimately generate positive outcomes and solutions for housing.

- Overall, the review would serve to identify and make recommendations on necessary policy changes while also detailing steps towards clarification of common terms and language as well as consistent implementation.
- Taking positive learnings from individuals, families, agencies and municipalities that have "stretched" current rules to create innovative housing solutions, government should review current parameters and consider how experience-driven innovations – housing projects and approaches put forth by families and family networks, including person-directed and individualized approaches that respect people's choices for where and how they live – might be better supported.
- As a potentially valuable component of this review process, the HTF recommends that government design and implement a comprehensive approach or system for gathering practical knowledge and insight from stakeholders. For example, a web-based form could be introduced which would allow community members to provide comments about current policies and rules that prevent innovation – without fear of consequence. Action items associated with this concept are included in both Recommendation 7 and 12.
- MCCSS should deliver a year-end report including a response to community members detailing findings from the policy review, what efforts have been undertaken to change or update policies that are found to be outdated, and what steps have been taken to ensure clarity and consistency in policy terms and language. It would seem appropriate for the Auditor General to review this report with an eye to assuring responsible ministerial management of public input.

B. "WHOLE OF SOCIETY" APPROACHES: ENGAGING ADVOCATES AND OTHER EXPERTS IN CONTINUAL RESEARCH & CONSULTATION

A review of key learnings from the 18 demonstration projects as well as results from a number of HTF-led research undertakings (e.g. Bricks & Mortar survey, Technology survey as described in Appendices V and VI) has made it clear that there are positive outcomes that can come from seeing and opening the 'well' of ideas. However, immense gaps in knowledge and awareness, particularly among members of the broader DS community, have contributed to a breakdown between principle (ideas deserving of implementation) and practice (the actual implementation of great ideas).

At the core of the HTF's agenda and driving every recommendation within this Final Report, is an awareness of citizenship – the belief that people with developmental disabilities are members of society and therefore, entitled to every opportunity available to citizens and community members. While it is essential that the needs of people with developmental disabilities be met, these needs are also fundamental rights that should never have to be 'begged' or fought for. It is the responsibility of society as a whole to ensure that people with developmental disabilities are afforded equal opportunity and diverse options for where and how they choose to live.

As such, the HTF has developed a number of recommendations that fall under a 'whole of society' approach to tackling housing concerns facing people with developmental disabilities living in Ontario. The following sub-section includes a set of recommendations that focus on the implementation of continual research initiatives (government-funded and privately commissioned) to promote advocacy, knowledge and awareness among groups within the developmental services sector and across broader society.

Recommendations cover the need for the province to create a formal mechanism (i.e. a MCCSS-led Think Tank or an entity similar to the City of Toronto's Innovation Lab) to support ongoing study and research designed to inform the creative use of resources and funding. These recommendations also focus on increasing engagement and connections with "experts" related to and/or outside the sector to assist in the creation of a solid, goal-driven developmental services knowledge base that can be tapped to generate informed action and tangible change. Over the years, the HTF has engaged in numerous opportunities to consult with a variety of experts and citizens who have undertaken research and development projects, in some cases without government-supported funding or services, aimed at advancing housing and support opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. These consultations and meetings are referenced in the Introduction section of this report.

Additionally, the HTF acknowledges that research was a driving force for many of the MCCSS-funded demonstration projects. It has already helped to uncover key learnings, new concepts and promising approaches that will be integral to the advancement of housing for people with development disabilities in Ontario. Some examples include:

- Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor-Essex County – This family-led project, through Family Advisory Committee, worked in strong partnership with the Windsor Essex Family Network, Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports, Community Living Windsor, and Community Development and Health, Housing Services, City of Windsor. The project partnership reviewed a number of reports, research documents and other important resources developed by the Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario and others, that supported the work of individuals and families in Windsor and Essex County and led to the development of the highly collaborative project proposal. Key concepts reviewed included: individualized funding for a whole life, customized home options, involvement of family and friends/networks - relationships that are unpaid, planning for contributions and participation through valued roles and community involvement. These resources supported individuals and families and encouraged their work with independent facilitators at Windsor-Essex Brokerage and supportive transfer payment agencies (TPAs) who committed to financial invoicing and tracking systems that made sense for the eight individuals who were supported by the project and their families.
- Housing Trust Project – Led by Citizen Advocacy Ottawa (CAO), this project was entirely research-based. It focused on exploring the feasibility of a housing trust for

adults with developmental disabilities in the Ottawa-Carleton area. The research process was grounded in the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities and their families and included stakeholder focus groups and a thorough review of the literature. The resulting report, *A Feasibility Study for a Housing Trust for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Ottawa-Carleton* identified a number of recommendations that are echoed throughout the HTF's final report. This includes: establishing comprehensive communications and education programs to raise community awareness of independent living and housing options for persons with intellectual disabilities, the need for comprehensive, plain language resources from across the housing community, the sharing of information with families and agencies to ensure cohesion and consistency across the service sector, and a better understanding of how programs and services of other provincial, municipal and federal agencies can be used to support housing initiatives.

- Developmental Services Worker Co-operative Development Project – A partnership between Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology, Disability Advocacy Network of Eastern Ontario (formerly United Families of Eastern Ontario) and LiveWorkPlay, this project was designed to increase community capacity with professionally trained direct support workers from outside MCCSS-funded agencies. It envisioned a resource for individuals/families for hiring trained direct support workers. The project engaged in a feasibility study in Year 1 to identify promising business models for DS Workers and interested service providers. Based in Ottawa, the project has since launched a cooperative business to further this process.

- Bridges to Housing – Principals from the partnership in this project recently published *Intellectual Disability and Homelessness: a Synthesis of the Literature and Discussion of How Supportive Housing Can Support Wellness for People with Intellectual Disability* in June 2018. This literature synthesis describes the prevalence and needs of developmental disabilities among adults experiencing homelessness, and discusses implications for providing longer terms supports to increase success of housing given the unique and complex needs.

With these and other examples in mind, the HTF makes the following recommendations to encourage research initiatives that go beyond the scope/mandate of the HTF itself – encouraging government to engage in wide-reaching research and exploration into evolving developments in the sector as well as emerging success stories, including successes and failures to innovate in other provinces, countries, communities, business and service sectors, and elsewhere.

Lastly, the HTF also puts emphasis on recommending further investment and commitment to research that focuses on a wide range of complex and often under-studied situations that exist within the developmental services sector, particularly for people with developmental disabilities who experience homelessness. There is also great need for

government to focus efforts on the needs of aging caregivers and transitional-aged youth and on addressing distinct challenges faced in urban, rural and northern communities.

Recommendation 3: "Housing and Housing Supports" Research & Consultation Initiatives

There should be an investment in the continual exploration and consultation of housing innovation specific to both the availability and creation of physical housing and the creative use of supports/funding. These initiatives would help set the stage for changes in the current crisis-based system of prioritization, moving towards providing greater choice and flexibility to people with developmental disabilities.

A key learning that very quickly emerged for the Housing Task Force, both in the review of demonstration project proposals and at the Ministers' Housing Forum, co-sponsored by (then) MCSS in November 2016, is the difficulty in separating "support" from "housing" in a more precisely defined "physical" sense, for people with developmental disabilities.

People with developmental disabilities should, like any other person in society, have the opportunity and ability to choose where they want to live. They must also be able to receive the support they need, wherever they choose to live. Housing, from a "bricks and mortar" perspective, however, simply cannot work without supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Furthermore, both housing and supports must be identified using a person-centered approach – in every aspect and at every step of the way.

In 1987, the decision to close all institutions and re-house individuals in the community was a celebrated initiative; however, it also created a new reality. Funding was diverted to these initiatives, but at the same time, wait lists began to take shape. For instance, many families who chose to support their sons and daughters in their community and their family homes were now aging and found themselves in need of housing and support services for their dependent children. These circumstances increased the need for housing and supports and a different system of priority needed to be put into place.

Currently, however, the system operates in a 'crisis intervention' mode when it should be in 'prevention' mode – and immediate steps need to be taken to ensure this shift in emphasis happens sooner rather than later – particularly as the wait lists continue to grow. Through open discussions on the DS Housing Task Force Facebook page, as well as responses to a 'Bricks & Mortar Survey', administered by the HTF in 2016, the Task Force has heard numerous times how the current crisis-response system hinders families who can supply their own housing, but are unable to access the system or move up on the priority list for supports because their family members' need for support is not in crisis or based on a

family crisis. A summary of findings from the Bricks & Mortar Survey is included in Appendix V of this report.

> *"If the government cannot afford to fund everyone on the (wait) list, why not give individuals a portion of the funds they should be receiving? Some parents can pay for rent or housing, but cannot afford support dollars for their child's entire life, especially when they are no longer around. The more that the funding is individualized, the more effective and efficient our supports will be as we can shop for the service that best suits our child's needs. Why continue with this all or nothing approach, serving only those in crisis, or those that are very well connected?"* – a survey respondent and parent of an individual with developmental disabilities, living in Ontario.

There are multiple barriers when it comes to creating innovative housing with support services, but for many people and their families, a key challenge has been inconsistencies within the current system and an 'all-or-nothing' approach to prioritization. People with developmental disabilities and their families have said that:

- The system is not open or ready to capitalize on families' financial resources in planning supports or services for family members.
- While partnerships are encouraged towards the development of 'person-focused homes or personal choice', prevailing approaches to prioritization prevent innovation or creative options and often see an ability to create partnerships (including financially) as "queue jumping". If families are willing to contribute financially to pay for supports, they are at risk of losing their turn or place in accessing MCCSS funded services and supports.
- At the local/regional level, priority lists for residential planning and allocation of resources are primarily focused on the people who require 'all', who have the greatest, most complex needs and are in crisis. Families that are able or willing to contribute are left to fend for themselves with little to no access to community infrastructure or resources and assistance with services such as managing training, scheduling, billing, monitoring, mentorship, and so on. Such challenges are compounded by the shortage of support workers available for families to hire privately.
- Even if families are fortunate enough to develop partnerships with support agencies and housing partners, there are further barriers to overcome – including severe rules related to Quality Assurance Measures (QAM) passed under the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 (SSIPDA), unionized hiring rules and no personal choice when hiring support workers – as a system prioritizing 'no risk' has emerged. While safety and

protection standards and ongoing monitoring should certainly apply to prevent abuse, assessments should be made on a case-by-case basis, considering real life scenarios to ensure the approach is considerate of an individual's particular situation and personal choice. Individualized housing situations should not be subject to the same QAM measures and protocols as group residences in community operated by DS sector agencies.

- While official language often promotes a person-centered approach, individuals and their families do not actually experience an individualized, personalized response nor do they receive individualized funding that enables them to pursue a customized, personalized housing solution or approach.

The need to identify a wider range of housing options, support options and funding options drives this recommendation that government ***invest in opportunities for continual exploration and consultation regarding housing innovation specific to the availability and creation of physical housing and the creative use of supports/funding***. Research and consultation efforts should focus on:

- Identifying options that respect personal/individual choice about where people with developmental disabilities want to live.
    - Understanding ways to access low-interest mortgages or how to make portable rent subsidies/allowances a reality for all are examples of specific issues deserving attention.
- Identifying options that respect personal/individual choice about who will be hired to provide needed supports– ensuring compatibility and mutual respect.
- Fostering connections with experts in both the 'housing' and 'supports' fields to identify innovative approaches and options for partnerships. For example, consult with builders, construction experts, and engineers on new opportunities that could be relevant to the developmental services sector.
- Assisting aging parents, who can no longer support their family member at home, to plan for the transition of the individual and the family and ensure comfort and support to all parties, before there is a crisis necessitating a far more expensive and less desirable support approach and solution.
- Identifying the housing cycle and focusing on all aspects that will occur for each individual and their family throughout their life, including respite support, leaving the family home, living more independently, living with minimal support, planning for retirement, needing additional support in old age and end of life.
- Identifying specific challenges faced by people with disabilities, family members, and organizations part of the DS sector located in rural areas and northern Ontario – where there are likely to be additional costs and more limited access to housing, transportation, healthcare and supports.

Recommendation 4: Cross-sector/Cross-regional Research Initiatives
The Housing Task Force recommends that the government engage in continual exploration and research to identify innovative developmental services initiatives and practices in other provinces, countries, communities and related sectors (e.g. mental health & addictions). The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, should lead this effort, in collaboration with ministries with related and relevant concerns (i.e. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance).

To better understand the depth and breadth of the current developmental services knowledge economy and to illustrate the value of pursuing new research, the HTF conducted a preliminary review of existing and available studies, reports and articles. This exercise was aimed at identifying concrete examples of 'leading edge initiatives' and evidence of innovation. The HTF identified and reviewed seven studies and conducted an environmental scan of over 35 international and Canadian examples of Home/Life Sharing programs. Within this preliminary review, the HTF uncovered that much of the work on innovative approaches has been done outside of Ontario, which suggests that a formal review of existing cross-regional and cross-sector research would be beneficial to MCCSS and the advancement of developmental services for Ontario. The HTF's findings further support our position that research aimed at building a sound DS-specific 'knowledge economy' is important and that it will contribute to the development of innovative decisions and solutions. Overall, there is a dire need for government investment towards ongoing research within the developmental services sector. An overview of articles and reports reviewed, and a summary of HTF learnings is included in Appendix III.

The HTF final report, therefore, includes the recommendation that *MCCSS, in collaboration with ministries with related and relevant concerns, engage in opportunities for continual third-party research to identify innovative practices in other provinces, countries, communities and related sectors.* In particular, these research initiatives would focus on identifying leading-edge initiatives specific to developmental services in other regions including successes and failures in other jurisdictions. Existing research and lived experience evident in the 18 demonstration projects and other locally-developed initiatives provide ample evidence for the value of innovation regarding the housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities – but "innovation" by its very nature requires continual rejuvenation of the kind that continual research can foster.

Also, a continual review of research focused on related sectors (for example, mental health & addictions, aging population, etc.) could prove useful in identifying transferable learnings, and innovations and initiatives for the DS community in Ontario. In particular, MCCSS may find value in reviewing how individualized funding, funding flexibility, approaches to housing affordability, and other topics, are addressed elsewhere, with the focus on innovative, customized individualized housing solutions.

The HTF also advocates for the creation of a Developmental Services 'Think Tank' – as an element of the IMHTF's mandate – a sub-committee that could be aligned with an independent researcher or university sponsor to explore existing research and identify new opportunities to build a developmental services knowledge bank in Ontario. It is critical of course not to lose focus on how policy hits the ground locally in communities at a practical level, and to keep the learning cycle dynamic with feedback from people and families to inform research, policy and learning. We are suggesting that government also learn from local communities, for example, with their own distinctive partnerships undertaking relevant work.

Recommendation 5: Research Initiatives Addressing 'Complex' Situations and Unsupported Individuals
The government should commit to undertaking specific exploration and research aimed at identifying issues/needs and solutions to address situations faced by people without personal networks of support, who have multiple, intersecting needs, or who are in 'complex' or precarious housing situations, including those facing homelessness.

In 2017, a number of new measures aimed at improving supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities who have complex and multiple needs were introduced under the former government of Ontario.[2] These included:

- A refreshed mandate for the **Community Networks of Specialized Care** – to include a specific role for complex support coordinators;
- Cross sector engagement on a new Dual Diagnosis Framework – to address the need for greater coordination and integration of health and developmental services supports for individuals with a dual diagnosis;
- Guidelines for supporting adults with developmental disabilities in Long-Term Care Homes – to assist individuals when applying for, transitioning into and living in a long-term care home by improving knowledge, planning and service coordination between the developmental services sector and the Long-Term Care home sectors.

While these initiatives are a step in the right direction, research findings and learnings gleaned from the MCCSS-funded demonstration project Bridges to Housing indicate that there is still a deep gap in knowledge and action – specifically when it comes to identifying and supporting the needs of people with developmental disabilities who experience homelessness. The project's greatest success was in the development of a two-step DS screening process – Rapid Assessment of Residential Support (RARS) – a triage tool that helps identify persons suspected of having a developmental disability while also assessing level of supported housing needs. It includes a short (40 minute) neuropsychological screening process, used within shelters to reliably predict whether clients will meet the

---

[2] https://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/en/mcss/news/releases/2017/20170307.aspx

eligibility criteria. An overview of the Bridges to Housing project can be found in the Overview of MCCSS-funded Demonstration Projects Chart found in Appendix I.

Of particular note, the <u>Bridges to Housing</u> cross-sector, multidisciplinary team outlined the following key observations and recommendations in final reports submitted to the Housing Task Force and (then) MCSS in 2017 and 2018:

- For those identified as appropriate for developmental services and supports, access to supported housing such as Enhanced Supported Independent Living (SIL) or other innovative housing models would seem to be ideal. However, currently these types of housing models do not have enough supports or do not include a cross disciplinary approach to support the unique needs and complexity of individuals.
- Ongoing work is needed to better predict housing support needs, examine system level gaps and challenges and better understand the factors interfering with and contributing to housing stability for those experiencing homelessness and complex brain and mental health challenges, in addition to ensuring primary medical care.
- The cross-sector team approach and particularly the diagnostic screening pathways, using Rapid Assessment of Residential Supports (RARS) and faster entry times through the DSO, could be adapted to other regions. The outcome relating to health and housing could vary based on geography and culture, though more data is needed to identify these opportunities and ways to learn from experience with successes and challenges.
- There also needs to be new housing opportunities and an array of options which offer cross-sector, multidisciplinary support being made available for people's unique combinations of need, with attention to people experiencing community and feeling connected, reducing isolation.

Driven by these valuable learnings, the HTF recommends that the Ministry of Community and Social Services commit to *putting greater emphasis on reviewing and tackling housing challenges specific to members of the DS community who are in situations where they do not have family advocates or support in the traditional sense, particularly people with developmental disabilities who experience homelessness, people in the criminal justice system, and others facing similar challenges.*

In particular, the Ministry should commit to following the example set by the <u>Bridges to Housing</u> project and support the implementation of a province-wide outreach effort that will identify individuals with developmental disabilities in the shelter system and engage with individuals with a cross-sector, multidisciplinary team approach to determine appropriate housing and support.

Recommendation 6: Research Initiatives Focused on Technological Innovation
There should be further exploration and research focused on the identification of technology-based initiatives and advancements that could be utilized to address housing and residential support needs for people with developmental disabilities.

There is a substantial gap in knowledge as well as ability to harness technological innovation regarding, in particular, assistive technology relevant to DS housing and residential supports in Ontario. In early 2018, the HTF issued a 'Technology Survey' to members of the DS community via the DS Housing Task Force Facebook page. The survey aimed to collect information from people, families and their allies about the use of assistive technologies designed to increase, maintain and improve the independence and quality of life of persons with a developmental disability – including enabling people to live, work and participate more fully in their communities.

Of note, the vast majority of survey respondents indicated that they use smartphones and tablets (often both) for a variety of functions including daily communication among family members, organization and time management, safety and emergencies, entertainment, education and well-being. However, fewer than half felt confident that their technology meets their needs. Positive responses were often also qualified with 'but', 'mostly' or 'for now'. Several mentioned concerns regarding affordability and expressed a desire for simpler functionality or ease-of-use. A summary of the Technology Survey is included in Appendix VI.

Additionally, learnings garnered from a number of demonstration projects, including Community Living Essex County's Smart Support – Technology Enabled Services and Partners for Planning's The Beat Goes On provided a glimpse into the advantages of utilizing technological innovation in a variety of housing approaches, while also pointing to specific gaps in knowledge and subsequent opportunities for further research and exploration:

- Smart Support – Technology Enabled Services focused on integrating "Right Fit" technology solutions that would enhance quality of life and provide sustainable supports requiring less funded resources, ultimately helping to realign or leverage support to assist others currently on wait lists. People using the technology solutions found that they developed increased confidence and increased self-determination. In some instances, people were able to move out of 24-hour supported group living with the assistance of some technology-based support. Transitional aged youth who would have previously moved into more highly structured traditional environments were able to live in an apartment with fewer direct support hours required. Still, a self-evaluation conducted by the project leads, concluded that:
    - There is a dire need for advancement in research and knowledge with regards to availability and implementation of technology-enabled supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities supported through the DS sector.

- o An individualized and continuous approach to education and learning is crucial for long-term success. Teaching a person the skills to transition into more independent living takes time and the amount of time varies for each person. Community Living Essex County partnered with the Center for Independent Futures, using their Full Life Process Software to ensure an approach that would consider each person's needs and timelines for learning.
  - o Outcomes must be person-centered and focused on how the use of technology enhances and complements the support that each person receives, rather than on the technology itself. Additionally, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to determining right-fit technology solutions – especially within the DS sector. Efforts of the project were successful through trial and error, a dynamic learning process, and the use of extra customization of technology with built-in features.

- The Beat Goes On emphasized a person-centred approach to leverage individualized, integrated community partnerships to enable D (the woman with developmental disabilities at the heart and focus of the project) to remain living in the community where her unique medical and developmental needs could be met. The project team reported that the use of technology was instrumental to D and those supporting her. Use of an iPad has assisted D with her cognitive skills, signing and vocabulary, allowing her to communicate more effectively with those supporting her and to exercise greater control over activities in her home. Additionally, instructional videos were produced on a number of D's health care needs, thereby enabling her supporters to assist her with greater consistency of care and communication.

- Neighbourly Homes led by Community Living St.Marys and Area has explored innovative and unique supportive housing options with people for many years, believing everything always starts with the person, taking an individualized approach to support each person to live well in their community. A foundational orientation of the project is the belief that some people can live with greater self-determination and independence by safely using technology. Using technology affords each person independence yet someone available for assistance when required. Learning to use different technology has been a part of the project for everyone involved.

- Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor-Essex County shared a person and family's story of how technology can make life easier and safer at home and in the community. The areas of use of supporting technology, particularly low tech solutions, included: worker scheduling (online scheduling, time recording, invoicing, and worker communication with one another); personal item location; health management tracking to improve overall health and wellness (weight and blood pressure management, medication management); communication (networking and checking in); home automation (including smart home technology increasing safety, security and voice activated control.

While technology can increase the options and quality of support, enhance training outcomes and support the person in directing their lives, individuals with developmental disabilities and their families and allies, and members of the DS community need access to better, more intuitive technology and individualized instructional resources to help them understand how technology can truly make a difference.

With an eye towards advancing a DS-specific 'knowledge economy' that is modern and relevant to the needs of current and future society, the HTF recommends that government *invest in research initiatives that would focus on current usage and leading-edge technological initiatives, identifying transferable learnings, and most importantly pinpointing new advances in technology – with an explicit focus on products, apps and programs for the DS community in Ontario.* To make this a reality, government should also consider creating a partnership with MaRS, Amazon, Google, Ontario Universities and Colleges, or other such research-driven entities to prioritize and promote technological innovation in the Developmental Services sector. In addition to higher level research, of course, it will be important to make consultation with individuals, families, and networks about evolving utilization of technology a regular component of overall "whole of society" communication efforts. (See below, Section C.)

C. GATHERING THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, & NETWORKS: GRASSROOTS CONSULTATIONS & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Recommendation 7: Continuous Consultation Process
The HTF recommends the implementation and maintenance of regular, meaningful grassroots consultation efforts with non-government stakeholders (individuals, families, family networks, self-advocacy groups and other grassroots community members) <u>and</u> service providers, including housing providers, healthcare providers, and other service groups within the broader community:
- *To advance common sense recommendations,*
- *To identify opportunities for government action, and*
- *To tackle inconsistencies and barriers within current government programs.*

These consultation efforts should include clearly stated outcome expectations and a schedule for annual reporting of people's experiences and future actions.

For the purposes of this recommendation, 'meaningful' refers to consultation efforts that actively engage individuals, families and other relevant external stakeholders *and* lead to the development of plans for effective change. Generally, these efforts would serve to tap "lived experience" for insights and wisdom, to examine changing needs and visions for the future, and would include plans to ensure ongoing community collaboration and participation

that empowers individuals and families and allows them to be connected to the decision-making process.

Over the years, problems involving insufficient consultation with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have evolved, and while MCCSS has made some important progress in tackling this issue in recent times (via the Ministers' Housing Forum in 2016 and some opportunities for ongoing consultations in 2017-18, for example), this is still a very much under-developed dimension of an overall "transformation" agenda. Individuals and their families continue to feel like they are not being heard.

Furthermore, there is overwhelming evidence that the complexity of multi-ministerial services for adults with developmental disabilities is not only confusing for families and advocates, but often also for staff within each ministry. Information must be a high priority: people need to understand all aspects of the system within which they hope to work if grassroots consultation is going to be productive.

The HTF believes that greater emphasis should be placed on *expanding opportunities for individual and family interaction and grassroots consultations with MCCSS, local governments, local agencies, and other individuals/families* – for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families as well as those with the responsibility to serve them as members of local communities and citizens of the province. Overall, consultations should ensure representation from diverse groups reflecting the full breadth of ages, needs, cultural identities, geographical differences and other important perspectives.

As a starting point, information sessions in various communities could be organized to create desirable awareness and to start reducing the prevalence of misconceptions – with a focus on "Here's where we are/Here's how things work." Presentations of information relevant to housing could touch on at least four basic areas at these sessions:

- Government programs (MCCSS's current activities and resources, including regional offices), DSO (the importance of the assessment process and "services requested," the role of the regional Housing Coordinators, etc.), Passport, and so on – as well as steps taken or developing involving the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, and local and regional government initiatives or potential opportunities;
- Agency initiatives (largely funded by MCCSS, of course, but warranting separate treatment because the agencies often become the local "face" of government efforts);
- Grassroots organizations beyond agencies: family networks, etc. – and the relevance of independent facilitators;
- Identifying how the multi-year residential planning tables and other local/regional mechanisms determine priorities.

Common denominators for information presentations should include "what is currently being done and what is currently <u>not</u> being done (or offered)." Information sharing sessions should also include opportunities to highlight innovative initiatives supported by MCCSS, local governments, family networks, etc. – including the HTF-recommended demonstration projects and independent facilitation services. These would become examples of the way in which new (or newer) steps are being taken and studied.

Planning discussions with local family groups could strengthen the eventual expansion of the information sharing initiative across the province. The planning discussions should also consider what "next steps" should follow the initial information sharing sessions – including, perhaps, the design of a toolkit or guideline resource for organizing and holding these next step activities. (E.g., How to develop local partnerships? How to prepare and advocate for specific proposals.)

Other considerations for the planning and implementation of information sessions and grassroots consultation efforts include:

- To ensure a wide reach, MCCSS should regularly hold town hall meetings as well as arrange to meet personally with individuals or groups and use written communication to reach people directly. As well, it is crucial that local audiences include people with developmental disabilities, families and family networks at every step.
- The benefits of virtual and social media should also be considered, to follow up on the success of the HTF Facebook page as an information, discussion and opinion-sharing site.
- For both immediate and longer-term use, some of the information sharing presentations should be recorded. This would make it easier for MCCSS and other "sharers" to be present at each session – though it would be important to always have a healthy measure of in-person participation. To ensure widest reach, information sharing sessions could also be recorded in full and shared virtually afterwards, thereby allowing access by individuals and groups in many communities over time. It is important that all areas of the province have access to engage and none are excluded from information sharing.
- The province should also expand its consultation strategies by formalizing and structuring opportunities for feedback, via an on-line form and/or virtual forum where individuals and families can identify obstacles to system access, in a clear and concise way, without fear of repercussion and with the knowledge that their feedback will be read and understood. Such a form could include response fields that allow people to categorize the issue they face, identify the action that is not allowed and under what current policy/rule/legislation/program requirement it falls, and to explain why it should be allowed (i.e. how it is consistent with funding objectives, but perhaps doesn't fall within a current program funding code.)

- Families and self-advocates should be represented or invited to sit at Community Planning Tables to ensure their voices are heard by those who are working to address the individual and systemic issues relating to services in their geographic regions.

As the HTF itself has become more aware of the dynamics and processes connected with creating housing opportunities for Ontarians with developmental disabilities, we have become increasingly interested in what goes on at the local municipal and regional levels.

To determine the extent to which people with developmental disabilities are on the municipal radar, the Task Force conducted a survey of Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSM) and District Social Service Administration Boards (DSSAB) in 2016. While 75% of Service Managers indicated that they had used provincial affordable housing and homelessness funding (i.e. Investment in Affordable Housing programs) to create housing targeted to 'special populations', this did not specifically include community members with developmental disabilities.

Most Service Managers are unaware that they have an obligation to serve the shelter needs of community members with developmental disabilities, incorrectly assuming that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services holds all funding for this purpose. Individuals and families are equally unaware of the obligation and expectation of Municipalities, as evidenced by input to the HTF's Facebook page. Many families and advocates are confused because of the disjointed roles that all levels of government play in the lives of Ontarians with developmental disabilities, and they continue to have great difficulty in navigating all the government websites for related assistance.

The HTF therefore believes an extremely valuable initiative would focus on connecting individuals, families, and family networks with the 47 Municipal Service Managers (municipalities and district social services administration boards) as well as local/regional political leaders (e.g., council members) who have designated responsibilities for dealing with affordable housing programs (i.e., the 10% typically mandated for 'persons with disabilities' and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing funds that flow to allow fulfillment of this mandate at the local level). Devising mechanisms for making these connections should figure prominently in planning for ongoing consultation efforts and should include individuals, their families and advocates, DS-sector organizations, service managers, municipal housing representatives, as well as representatives from Employment and Social Development Canada, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Demonstration projects such as Housing is a Community Issue (Central & Eastern Ontario), Housing Trust Project (Ottawa), Imaginative Living Options (Brantford) and Continuing Housing Innovation Windsor-Essex County all explored housing opportunities available when connections are made at the municipal level and with appropriate engagement with designated municipal service managers. The successes of all of these projects highlight the

value of family and family network advocacy efforts that invest energy into developing relationships with partners within multiple layers of government (and beyond).

Lastly, service providers (including but not limited to housing providers, health providers, and other relevant service organizations) are key in supporting the delivery of services. They are also well placed to assess the effectiveness of service delivery and to identify gaps in the system. It is imperative that MCCSS ensure regular communication with these groups and encourage opportunities for early engagement so that they become part of an ongoing consultative process for those concerned about housing supports and choices for people with developmental disabilities. In particular, these consultations would include regular opportunities to meet with:

- Developmental Services agencies – to learn about current and relevant system challenges and facilitate ideas for creating greater capacity and flow of services, so that they are able to better serve people who want and need more options and flexible levels of residential supports at different stages of their lives;
- Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) – to encourage and support integration of health and community funding and services at an early stage, advancing opportunities for accessible, appropriate local care and community inclusion, particularly for individuals who are aging and those with complex medical and healthcare support needs. In this case, it will be crucial to be on guard against any "whole of government" approach which simply substitutes one locus of support resources for another (e.g., replacing MCCSS support with Ministry of Health support): a key objective of "whole of government"/"whole of society" planning and action is to enrich and expand efforts to meet the needs of adults with developmental disabilities and any "either/or" approach would undercut the intention of this recommendation;
- Other service providers and governmental partners within broader community settings, as well as people with disabilities and family members – to encourage an overall sharing of ideas and knowledge transfer regarding integration, service limitations and opportunities.

To support an MCCSS-led policy review initiative and to get an accurate understanding of impediments caused by current policy, gaps in the system, barriers to service and the inevitable, though not always acknowledged, system 'work-arounds' that might be implemented by service providers, the HTF also recommends that the Ministry consider the implementation of a "Red Tape Review". A formalized process for the gathering of practical knowledge and insight from key stakeholders, this review would specifically focus on the collection of feedback, examples and recommendations for change, from service providers and partners, as well as front line staff, at all levels of government.

The benefits that come from a cohesive, early-on effort between government, non-government stakeholders, individuals and the broader community is evidenced in many of the MCCSS-funded demonstration projects. For example, in ongoing efforts to support and learn from one another, and in offering support to men and women with complex needs across different Ministries and systems, the <u>Bridges to Housing</u> project leadership team also co-created a 'Collaborative of the Willing' – an informal, ad hoc advisory group comprised of diverse, cross-sector stakeholders who engage in information sharing, finding options/opportunities, idea generation and problem solving across silos or typical boundaries to find innovative solutions for individuals to meet the unique housing and support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities experiencing homelessness.

SECTION II – ENABLING ACTION

As stated in the introduction to the Recommendations section of this Report, the HTF strongly believes that innovative ideas cannot have positive outcomes unless they can be translated into action. If ideas are generated through pro-active efforts as recommended above, then we must also explore what needs be done to make sure these ideas are not ignored or neglected in such a way that they end up failing prematurely – which has so often been the fate of ideas brought forward by individuals, families, family networks and other interested parties. If we are to do our due diligence and commit to working collectively towards achieving evolutionary change, we must identify and invest in the resources needed to activate the innovative concepts that a "research & development" effort has produced.

The HTF proposes the following 6 recommendations, geared towards using the learnings already gathered (via the 18 demonstration projects and other initiatives and research activities), as well as learnings anticipated from implementation of preceding recommendations, to enable action and foster concrete results that will work to address, with some immediacy, the complex and urgent housing needs of people with developmental disabilities.

At the top of the priority list for the Housing Task Force, is a **recommendation that the provincial government commit to increased funding for innovative individualized housing options.** While the previous government has done admirable work with respect to developmental services in any number of ways (including the recent investment of $300 million over three years for support agencies to continue to deliver quality services to individuals and their families), wait lists for residential services and affordable housing remain dismayingly long. Still more must be done – clearly.

The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* recognizes that persons with disabilities have the right to individual autonomy and independence, including the freedom to make their own choices. People with developmental disabilities share a desire to plan for their future and make decisions about their own lives. Individuals and their families want more autonomy in designing their services and supports while communities want to create innovative solutions to meet local needs. With this in mind, recommendations that follow also aim to empower individuals, families, and communities by providing them with more flexibility to create individualized, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and community-based solutions.

It cannot be overstated that there is no single initiative that will satisfy the needs of this highly diverse population. The Housing Task Force strongly advocates that any development of new initiatives for addressing the housing crisis should be sensitive to the fact that a person's home and the support that he or she needs to live in that home are two different things. Where a

person has neither a place to live nor the support that they require, both things must be provided in keeping with the individual's unique needs — and neither one of these things are of value if the other is not provided as well. Efforts aimed at dealing with either housing or supports need to be considered separately, but with the understanding of the interdependence that exists and the fact that neither can be seen as sufficient as a single program or initiative. As with the province's population overall, adults with developmental disabilities and their families have highly varied needs and preferences—and meaningful progress toward solving the housing crisis will continue to require the implementation of multiple initiatives and varied approaches.

To further illustrate the ways in which "ideas" and research-based outcomes can translate into tangible "action" when all parts of society with an interest in housing issues faced by people with developmental disabilities are included, the following set of recommendations are once again sub-divided into sections that place emphasis on 'whole of government' approaches, 'whole of society' approaches and approaches that empower individuals, families and networks.

A. "WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT" APPROACHES: PRIORITIZING INNOVATION & EMPHASIZING QUALITY OF LIFE

What follows are a series of recommendations that identify specific and concrete "whole of government" actions related to funding allocations that prioritize innovation in housing – through supports and services, innovative housing initiatives and overall review and transformation of current legislation, policy and initiatives – at various levels of government.

Recommendation 8: Overall Funding for Housing Services and Supports

The Housing Task Force recommends adoption of an innovative two-track ten-year budget plan with appropriate funding to sustain and augment individualized housing supports for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The first track would address the long-neglected needs of Ontarians who have been on the wait list for housing supports for more than ten years; the second track would provide the policy and resource commitments needed to prevent the kind of expanding regional or provincial wait lists that generate crisis scenarios for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The 6 recommendations in this "Enabling Action" section of the Developmental Services Housing Task Force Final Report highlight multiple ways in which significant progress can be supported in providing housing opportunities for Ontarians with developmental disabilities. It is appropriate to begin, however, by underlining the core significance of expanded government funding. There is simply no question but that more sufficient government resources will be required to foster initiatives proportionate to the crisis being experienced. On one hand, expanded resources will enable direct and focused actions comparable to those our province's citizens routinely and reasonably expect in areas like health care and education. On the other hand, more creative use of government resources will facilitate the partnerships and grassroots

engagement that will yield yet more and improved housing options than would be possible by reliance on the provincial government alone.

The Housing Task Force recommends, therefore, that the provincial government adopt an innovative budget plan regarding the housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities: innovative in the way it makes a two-track ten-year commitment to significantly augment the housing supports provided to the developmental services sector:

- **Track One:** the ten-year plan should prioritize the needs of those who have been on the Ministry wait list as it stands in 2018-19, for more than ten years – because these are the people who have been most profoundly affected by the current housing crisis. Action items recommended here:
  - A clear tabulation of time spent on the wait list for housing opportunities should be prepared as soon as possible, utilizing Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) data.
  - The government should then commit to provide appropriate housing opportunities for a minimum of 10% of those who have been on this list for a decade or more in each of the subsequent ten years.
  - Particular attention during the first three years of this ten-year plan should be paid to individuals whose aging caregivers are in their 60s, 70s and 80s.

  Policy changes adopted in response to the studies and reviews proposed in the "Generating Ideas" section of this HTF Final Report should also be allowed to influence Track One efforts (e.g., expanding responsiveness to pro-active planning by those on the 2018-19 wait list).

- **Track Two:** a ten-year housing plan should also commit to the invigoration of system transformation so that those whose names have been added to the wait list more recently, or who request supports in the future and whose names will then be added, will not have to experience the profound strains that have been burdening others so severely. No waiting list is a static entity, that is. Evolving human needs and social circumstances will inevitably expand the number of those seeking housing supports in the years ahead – given the continual responsibility to include, for example, Transitional Age Youth, new applicants assessed by Developmental Services Ontario, and individuals who were not yet ready to declare more urgent concern for housing before 2018-19.

The HTF believes that Track Two would benefit greatly from an approach that: a) identified distinct, broad categories of individuals requiring support and b) ensured that an equitable assignment of resources was provided for each category. The needs of Transitional Age Youth should certainly be one category, for example, but with dedicated resources sufficient to avoid any continuing neglect of other individuals. With an eye to a regular theme in this Report, another category deserving of focused attention (and dedicated resources) would be individuals and families who have undertaken pro-active planning: if the developmental services

sector is going to transform itself out of a perpetual crisis-driven system regarding housing needs – and this Report is clearly proposing a commitment to do that within the next ten years – then actions and resources devoted to innovative, collaborative and "whole of government"/"whole of society" approaches like pro-active planning must be provided.

The Housing Task Force strongly believes that all those in need of housing supports – those currently on the wait list <u>and</u> those who will be added to the wait list in the future – deserve government support and the concern of all Ontarians. It also strongly believes that a two-track approach will be needed to move forward in a fair and balanced way. While system transformation is continued (and energized) in order to deal with evolving and longer-term requirements, exceptional efforts should be undertaken on behalf of those who are currently experiencing crisis conditions. Individuals (and families) on the 2018-19 Service wait list have lived with insufficient funding and innovation for more than ten or even twenty years in all too many cases – and the strains of this have created a particularly tragic reality for some. The special nature of this crisis deserves special attention.

Sensitivity of this kind was a crucial factor in the 1987 decision to make extraordinary efforts to close the large-scale institutions that had become so disturbing a feature of Ontario's responses to the needs of its citizens with developmental disabilities. Determination and resources, in this case, invested over more than two decades, succeeded in transforming lives and allowed individuals to move to richer lives in caring communities. It is time to repeat this wonderful achievement on behalf of the thousands of people currently burdened by the developmental services sector's housing crisis.

<u>Recommendation 9: Provincial Housing Innovation Fund</u>
Provincial government action should be taken to increase MCCSS funding for innovation-driven housing initiatives, including an ongoing innovation fund available to each region, <u>and</u> funding provided to enable action on ideas generated by the Inter-Ministerial Housing Task Force called for in Recommendation 1.

The HTF's Recommendations began by identifying the desire for a continued and concentrated effort towards supporting a "whole of government" initiative that would tap into the resources and expertise of other ministries, relevant to the varied needs of the individuals needing support, across the province. The 18 MCCSS-funded demonstration projects have successfully illustrated the advantages of moving toward a "whole of government" approach and their successes support the HTF's recommendation for the implementation of an Inter-Ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF).

The IMHTF's mandate, as outlined in Recommendation 1 and 2 of this Report, should include expanding collaborative opportunities and partnerships, identifying and addressing

barriers within current policy, and supporting new opportunities for demonstration projects. This will propel additional innovations and housing projects, providing a continual flow of evidence and on the ground information and experience regarding valuable ways of tackling the developmental services housing crisis in a tangible way.

To strengthen progress on this front, the HTF recommends ***provincial government action that includes increased MCCSS funding for innovation-driven housing initiatives, including an ongoing innovation fund available to each region, and funding provided to action ideas generated by an IMHTF.***

In particular, an additional $2 million of annualized funding should be made available, as soon as possible, to launch a number of new innovation-driven housing demonstration projects. This investment should be $2 million (annualized) for each of the three years of the term of the IMHTF. The funds should be made available through the MCCSS regions, ensuring that each part of the province has an allocation to distribute in response to local need and local innovative project submissions. The IMHTF could release findings and ideas each year, with the $2 million in funds distributed to projects that demonstrate the values, principles and partnerships promoted by the HTF and furthered through the work of the IMHTF. (To ensure flexibility and innovation, this funding should follow the approach and funding source established with the 18 demonstration projects that emerged from HTF recommendations: i.e., funding should flow through the 'MCSS Act' rather than SIPDDA.)

Each MCCSS region should incorporate these values, principles and partnerships into its local processes, such as the current MYRP (multi-year residential services planning) initiative. This would ensure that services are not simply expanded as they have historically been (within MCCSS-funded DS agencies) – allowing both the services and the options or spectrum of services to be expanded, resulting in more people being supported and the embracing of more creative, individualized, cross-ministry and "whole of society" approaches.

The IMHTF should provide the parameters to the Regions for local roll-out and local partnership development – and specific investments of innovation funds could initially and partially be used to fulfill objectives in both of the funding streams identified in Recommendation 8.

Examples of new innovation-driven housing opportunities can be found within the more than 280 submissions received during the HTF's proposal gathering process. These proposals are already in existence and could provide a head start towards ensuring citizens in more and more communities experience housing supports that reflect what they need and do not rely solely on MCCSS for funding and implementation, but engage the broader community as well as government in the solutions. From the beginning of the demonstration project process the HTF

was conscious of the fact that there were deserving projects that could not be supported because of the limitations of the original $3 million in funding (as indicated when the HTF submitted specific project recommendations to MCSS). Nonetheless, the value of these submissions cannot be ignored and the HTF strongly recommends that MCCSS conduct an audit of existing proposals as a starting point for this initiative. This would allow timely movement towards implementing this recommendation.

Recommendation 10: Affordable Housing Initiatives

A range of actions should be utilized expand affordable housing initiatives for adults with developmental disabilities, with emphasis on responding to opportunities identified by HTF research. Among other things, these actions would entail effective cooperation between MCCSS, MMAH, MOHLTC and local authorities (including service managers and municipal/regional councils).

Safe, secure and affordable housing is critical to the health and well-being of all Ontarians. Unfortunately, affordable housing is also out of reach for far too many, none more so than Ontarians with disabilities. Currently, within provincially-funded Affordable Housing programs, very few units are made available to people with disabilities, and fewer yet for people with developmental disabilities.

In developing our recommendations on affordable housing initiatives, specific to the needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities, the Housing Task Force reviewed current affordable housing programs and acts including:

- Federal and Provincial Affordable Housing programs
- Housing Services Act
- Planning Act

For the purposes of this report, 'Affordable Housing' is defined to include all resources available to municipalities to create housing affordability.

The vast majority of Ontarians with developmental disabilities are impoverished[3] and thus more likely to struggle to participate in society with a sense of dignity and self-determination. In the province's 2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy, housing was cited as the stable foundation that helps people rise out of poverty.[4] Although this fact continues to ring true, and the reality of government's obligations to society's most vulnerable population is clear, housing is expensive. Resources are scarce, and it is neither possible, nor is it ideal, for government to tackle this situation alone. For affordable housing to become a reality and for it to effectively benefit those who are most vulnerable, public investments must be streamlined and private sector partnerships

---

[3] Refer to Appendix VII of this Report *References for Developmental Disability and Poverty*
[4] https://www.ontario.ca/page/realizing-our-potential-ontarios-poverty-reduction-strategy-2014-2019

must be sought. Limited public funding cannot be wasted on unnecessary bureaucracy, and public benefits should be restricted to those who qualify and are in need.

The HTF's recommendation on affordable housing and the specific action items that follow in this section are consistent with these principles and seek to maximize the value of every public funding dollar while creating more affordable housing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Ontario in urban, rural and northern locations.

Action 1: ODSP Shelter Allowance at Average Market Rent

Ontarians with developmental disabilities receive a monthly Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payment that includes both a basic needs amount and a shelter allowance. The basic needs portion is meant to help cover the cost of food, clothing, and other necessary personal items while the shelter allowance is meant to help cover rent or a mortgage payment, heat, utilities (hydro, water), property taxes, home insurance and condominium fees.

For a single person, the ODSP maximum shelter allowance per month is $489, clearly insufficient relative to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Average Market Rent (AMR) of $1,202 in Toronto, $845 in Hamilton, $807 in Sarnia, or $778 in Thunder Bay.[5]

The reality of this economic gap for Ontario's most vulnerable population is not new information. The provincial response has been an expansion of provincial Rent-Geared-To-Income Rent Supplement (RGI) programs into the Developmental Services Sector. Even if available to all Ontarians with developmental disabilities, however, RGI programs are bureaucratically inefficient for this population.

Rent-Geared-To-Income programs are funded by the province and delivered by Service Managers (typically based in a municipality). Municipalities sometimes contract out the administration to non-profit organizations, or may directly deliver the program themselves. However it is delivered, the program requires annual and often mid-year income reviews of every recipient to ensure that they continue to qualify for a rental subsidy. The annual oversight and information technology requirements necessary to support reporting from private sector landlords and non-profit organizations to municipalities and then to the Province are immense.

Vigilance is absolutely necessary to ensure that income earning RGI recipients continue to qualify for their subsidies, but given the limited earning potential of Ontarians with developmental disabilities, the entire RGI program is a blunt and inefficient response to their shelter needs.

---

[5] http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page16461.aspx

A much more efficient and streamlined response for Ontarians with a developmental disability would be for the province to set the ODSP Shelter Allowance at the CMHC Average Market Rent amount, specific to each community.

Providing realistic shelter allowances will not only eliminate redundant bureaucracy, it will also grant Ontarians with developmental disabilities the opportunity to live where and with whom they want. Competitive access to the entire private rental housing market as opposed to the limited, congregate, semi-institutional rooming house model will contribute to the healthy diversity of communities for all Ontarians, and significantly advance the principles of Citizenship, Access and Portability that are so important to the Developmental Services sector[6].

The HTF recommends that the ***provincial government calculate the administrative savings realized by the province, municipalities and agencies if rent supplement and housing allowance programs were eliminated for Ontarians with developmental disabilities and replaced with an ODSP shelter amount equal to the Average Market Rent (AMR) specific to each individual's community.***

Action 2: Benefit Restriction – Mandatory Annual Income Testing

Public resources dedicated to poverty reduction must be targeted and specific. Through Affordable Housing investments, the Province creates affordable rents for low to moderate income households. In Ontario's extremely tight housing market, this can reduce rental costs from as much as 80% of income to just 25% for qualifying households. Typically, the same household can enjoy this public investment for 20 to 25 years, creating long-term stability.

It stands to reason that if household income grows, higher earning households no longer requiring the benefit should no longer receive it, creating benefit redistribution and opportunities for new low-income qualifying individuals and families. Unfortunately, Ontario's current Affordable Housing programs do not require household income testing after initial occupancy. Essentially, once the benefit has been allocated, it stays with the individual for 20 years, regardless of any increase in household income.

The HTF believes that publicly funded programs should require those who earn more to pay more, freeing up resources for those truly in need. Although this would require an annual review of household income, it need not be bureaucratically burdensome. Inter-governmental agreements to automatically share income tax data from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) already exist for income tested Housing Allowance programs that are administered by municipalities[7].

---

[6] See, for example, the discussion of guiding principles in Transforming Developmental Services in Ontario.

[7] A simplified review of how Affordable Housing Annual Income Testing could work is included in Appendix IV.

If an automated annual review of income tax assessments were conducted, and if high-income households were required to pay the true market rent for their Affordable Housing unit (e.g., $2,000 for a 1-bedroom unit in downtown Toronto), a number of poverty reduction benefits could be achieved for persons with developmental disabilities:

- **Increased availability of affordable housing for those in need.**
  - If forced to pay more, high income households may be persuaded to vacate their units, freeing up a new affordable housing unit for an individual or family in the lowest income strata;

- **The generation of private market subsidies**
  - Affordable Housing is often created through government funding to private sector developers. In exchange for capital funding and the elimination of development fees and property taxes, developers must lower their rents to an 'affordable level' for a period of time, typically 20 years. Rental revenue is restricted to a percentage of an Average Market Rent (AMR) set by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
  - If a higher-income earning household decided to remain in their affordable housing unit and pay the true market rent, the developer's rental income would likely exceed allowable limits (typically 80% of AMR for all units). To lower the project's overall rental income, other unit rents must be decreased, creating affordability for low-income households, achieved without any new public funding.
  - By income testing and requiring those who make more to pay more, a privately funded internal subsidy pool becomes available to lower the rents of those in most need[8].

- **Support for evidence-based decision-making**
  - Without annual income testing, government has no information on the effectiveness of affordable housing as a poverty reduction strategy and is unable to declare whether any affordable housing occupant continues to require the benefit they currently receive (and could continue to receive, unchallenged, for over 20 years).

To create a private market subsidy program, to ensure that benefits continue to flow to only those in need, and to generate data for evidence-based decision making, the HTF includes this recommendation for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

- ***Implement annual automated income verification processes for all new Affordable Housing programs;***
- ***Require annual automated income verifications of all new occupants in existing Affordable Housing projects.***

---

[8] See Appendix IV for an example of how private market subsidies could make Affordable Housing truly affordable for Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

- *Allow Affordable Housing rents to increase to the true market rent if the true market rent is less than 30% of monthly household income.*

Action 3: Listing People with Developmental Disabilities when referring to "People with Disabilities".

Typical of many government programs, Ontario's Affordable Housing programs require service to 'people with disabilities'. Regrettably, 'people with developmental disabilities' are often not considered and included for funding because program guidelines typically reference only mental health, addictions, and physical disabilities as examples of people within this category. Many municipalities, as a result, will read the examples in guidelines as what is 'required' and rarely consider allocating funds specifically to people with developmental disabilities in their communities.

The HTF advocates strongly for a provincial commitment to include 'people with developmental disabilities' when listing examples of 'people with disabilities' in all government program guidelines, websites, and other written and distributed documentation.

Action 4: Moving forward with an increased commitment: 5% of housing resources for people with developmental disabilities:

The Federal Government's National Housing Strategy has targeted 4% of all new affordable housing units for people with developmental disabilities. This represents funding for 2,400 of the 60,000 total units available. The dedication of federal affordable housing resources specifically to people with developmental disabilities is a very positive development, and reflects a corrective action which will address decades of underservicing.

Among others, the Toronto Developmental Services Alliance (TDSA) has been advocating for 5% of housing developments to be dedicated to individuals with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

The HTF is strongly supportive of the National Housing Strategy's 4% target, however, given the historical under-representation of service for these individuals, we agree with the Toronto Developmental Services Alliance and call for 5% of all new housing opportunities for Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

Action 5: Commit to action and engagement with the Bilateral Agreement under the National Housing Strategy: April 1, 2018:
Developmental Services – Revitalization and Expansion - *April 1, 2018 CMHC-Ontario – Bilateral Agreement Under the 2017 National Housing Strategy*

The purpose of this bilateral agreement between the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Ontario's Ministry of Housing is to set out a renewed federal-provincial partnership to:

- Maintain funding for current federal/provincial housing programs
- Repair at least 20% of units in this portfolio
- Increase the number of rent assisted housing units in this portfolio by 15%.
- Prioritize the most vulnerable.

This unprecedented opportunity for Ontario's Developmental Services (DS) sector must become a priority for the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). The capacity for most DS Agencies to individually respond successfully to this opportunity is limited.

The HTF recommends that the Minister MCCSS engage with the Minister of Housing and the Vice-President, Affordable Housing Client Solutions, CMHC to:

- ***Determine the maximum benefit available to the DS sector under this agreement***
- ***Set this target as a minimum immediate goal for MCCSS.***
- ***Recognize that DS agencies alone do not have the capacity to respond to this opportunity***
- ***Plan and execute an engagement strategy with DS sector agencies to ensure that the maximum amount of federal benefits are realized for Ontario's citizens with developmental disabilities.***

Action 6: Commitment to Enhanced Oversight of Municipal Affordable Housing Delivery

Although municipalities are required to report annually on Affordable Housing through the provincial Grants Ontario system, the province does not publish the actual number of units for people with disabilities as a percentage of all affordable units in each municipality.

To support increased transparency and ensure equal access to resources, the HTF recommends ***the implementation of a provincial audit of Affordable Housing Units at the Municipal Service Manager level***. This audit should include information about the number of units available, the number of units dedicated to persons with disabilities, the number of units dedicated to specific categories of disabilities (<ins>including</ins> developmental disabilities), and a comparison of this data to targets identified in each Service Manager's <ins>Housing and Homelessness Plan</ins>.

We further recommend the requirement of an annual published report from the Province to make this information available to all Ontarians in English, French and in plain language.

Action 7: Incentives for Private Sector Development of Affordable Housing

A 'Whole of Community' approach will create stronger communities and more cost-effective housing opportunities. Through consultations with Ontarians with developmental disabilities, their families, housing experts, and municipalities, the HTF has learned that many private sector developers have a mistaken belief that making affordable housing units available to persons with developmental disabilities will lead to increased costs and conflicts within their buildings. In a rental environment with very tight profit margins, on-site administration is a manageable cost that is minimized wherever possible.

Notwithstanding evidence that the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities can create a healthier, stable and thus more cost effective housing project[9], reducing risk and cost by avoiding people with disabilities is a mitigation strategy often employed by private sector developers. Without a financial incentive to house people with disabilities, people with developmental disabilities are often shut out of the private sector rental housing market.

Our research has demonstrated that Developers will include Ontarians with developmental disabilities if provided a financial incentive to do so. Appendix IV demonstrates that through a simple change in the definition of 'Affordable Rent' it is possible to create this financial incentive and a subsequent demand to house Ontarians with developmental disabilities without any new public investment.

With reference to Appendix IV, the HTF recommends that the ***Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: 1) change the definition of Affordable Housing Rent to include only the amount received from the tenant and 2) apply this change retroactively to all Affordable Housing Program projects in receipt of provincial funding.***

Action 8: Municipal Opportunities within Provincial Legislation

Municipalities play a significant role in the identification, allocation and creation of affordable housing. Municipalities are required by Section 6 of the Housing Services Act to develop plans that identify objectives and targets relating to housing and homelessness. These plans must include an assessment of current and future housing needs within the service manager's service area.

Section 37 of the Planning Act allows municipalities to authorize increases to height and density of developments in exchange for a contribution from the developer. Many municipalities use these Section 37 contributions to create affordable housing in their communities.

---

[9] See *Fostering an Inclusive Community –Creating Community in a Toronto Community Housing Seniors Project, in Appendix IV*

Inclusionary Zoning regulations allow municipalities to require affordable housing units in all new developments. To exercise this right, municipalities are required to submit a report to the province that includes an analysis of demographics and population in their municipality.

Lastly, Provincial Housing Funding programs typically require Service Managers to target 10% of their provincial housing funding to persons with disabilities, though as we have indicated above, this category does not specifically list people with developmental disabilities, as we recommend it should do so going forward.

Individual municipalities hold great power and responsibility when it comes to serving the needs of citizens with disabilities in Ontario: i.e., to create affordable housing in their communities in general and to ensure that they correctly identify the housing needs of persons with developmental disabilities as is required by the Housing Services Act and the Planning Act. It is important that people with developmental disabilities, their family members and allies are aware of these responsibilities and hold municipalities accountable, as well as municipalities holding themselves responsible as well.

As such, the HTF recommends that Municipalities and Service Managers:
- Engage with local Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) offices to gather current data on the housing and support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities in their communities.
- Meet periodically with the sector stakeholders to develop and ensure a local community-based approach to addressing the affordable housing options for citizens in their community including citizens with developmental disabilities. Stakeholder connections should include people with developmental disabilities, family members and local family organizations allied with citizens with disabilities, developmental services sector organizations, Employment and Social Development Canada, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- Ensure that all demographic and population assessments of their municipality for the purpose of the Housing Services Act and the Planning Act specifically include reference to persons with developmental disabilities.
- Ensure that 'persons with developmental disabilities' are specifically identified when determining the needs of 'persons with disabilities' in their community.
- Dedicate 5% of all Planning Act benefits secured from developers to create affordable housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
- Dedicate 5% of all provincial Affordable Housing funding to persons with developmental disabilities, and engage with the local MCCSS Regional Office to ensure a systemic approach to the allocation of these resources.

- Publish an annual report on the allocation of affordable housing benefits secured from all sources and the percentage of these benefits that were dedicated to persons with disabilities and persons with developmental disabilities, specifically.
- Invite the Developmental Services Housing Task Force to present this report to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) 47 Leader's Table to give further impetus to this endeavour and encourage their local/municipal government officials and service managers to identify and allocate housing resources for people with developmental disabilities in their communities.

Action 9: The Role of Individuals, Families and Advocates

The HTF is fully aware of the ways in which individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and advocates already have enormous responsibilities on their shoulders as they grapple with housing challenges. At the same time, HTF experiences suggest that added efforts – when it is possible to make them – can play a role in expanding highly desirable opportunities. With this in mind, we urge individuals, families, and advocates to actively engage with:

- Local politicians and administrators to ensure that municipalities:
  - Recognize municipal requirements to address the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their communities;
  - Accept this Report's recommendations to include 'people with developmental disabilities' when listing examples of 'people with disabilities' in all municipal program guidelines, websites, and other written and distributed documentation.
  - Table this report at municipal and Service Manager council meetings with a commitment to act on its recommendations.
- Provincial and federal administrators and politicians to ensure that they:
  - Are aware of their responsibility to address the housing and support needs of people with developmental disabilities.
  - Table this report at Queen's Park and the House of Commons with a commitment to act on its recommendations.
- Private sector housing developers to demonstrate:
  - The value of creating diverse and strengthened communities through the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.
  - The added strength of development submissions to government Request for Proposal calls if their submission includes a partnership with agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities.

B. "WHOLE OF SOCIETY" APPROACHES: SUPPORTING DIVERSE OPTIONS AND PERSON-CENTRED APPROACHES

This sub-section covers recommendations that support creative approaches to solving housing challenges, specifically covering opportunities that go beyond the traditional group homes and supported independent living arrangements to promote the availability of a more diverse range of housing options to address the diverse challenges and needs of individuals.

Ultimately, these recommendations focus on respecting people's *choice* - acknowledging that there are different ways for people to choose to live and allowing them to access a variety of options that address both their desires and needs. This doesn't always need to be about supporting creativity; it can also mean supporting traditional ways of living – as long as the emphasis is on responding to individual needs and choices. Here the HTF explores the need for flexibility, portability, and individualization of funding and supports, and towards flexibility of living, where funding is available to support the individual throughout their lifecycle and within the context of their changing needs.

Many of our learnings within this realm, as expected, have come from the 18 demonstration projects, including:

- Imaginative Living Options – Community Living Brant led this project that aimed to develop a full range of imaginative and innovative housing and support options for adults with a developmental disability, which respect personal choice with approaches that are person-centred. Along with securing new housing options for participants, CL Brant fostered the creation of natural support networks to create a sense of belonging and contribution for and by the person within their community. This included repurposing existing group homes and resources to support new living options for people; and creating individualized living options with university students and seniors, to build relationships and social capital.

- Just Enough Support – This LiveWorkPlay-led project provided person-centered training and 'Just Enough Support' to 12 adults with developmental disabilities and their family/support networks in Ottawa. This enabled the development and launch of a support plan that allowed each person to move into a home of their own. Person-centered planning provided in-depth assessment of true needs and the right level of support for each individual, including the customization and maximization of assistive technologies and existing resources. The approach also prevents the development of a limited 'systems life' for individuals while improving choice and independence; and it allows for stakeholders and community members to benefit from opportunities to participate more fully in the community.

The recommendations that follow therefore focus explicitly on increasing funding flexibility and furthering the availability of individualized funding to enable the focus on a full meaningful life in community including innovative housing for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

Recommendation 11: Increasing Funding Flexibility and Supporting Individualized Funding & Supports
The HTF recommends actions to increase flexibility in utilization of Developmental Services funding, including the availability of individualized/direct funding for residential options, and encouraging the availability of a dedicated independent third-party resource to assist individuals and families in the development of an individualized, customized housing proposal/ plan for an innovative housing solution.

A significant number of individuals in Ontario continue to express the desire to be able to design their own life within the community and to customize and direct their support services accordingly. However, in order to achieve this, individuals would need access to adequate Individualized Funding that would allow them to purchase their preferred supports, with the assistance of their family/friends and support networks. Having control over the support resources allows the person/family to be in the driver's seat. While the Ministry has made great strides with the expansion of Direct Funding in the Passport program, for many people the maximum allocation is insufficient to arrange the housing desired or to purchase enough support to be able to live a full life in the community.

The HTF, in listening to what people and families want, understands that an increasing number of people across the province are asking for individualized, self-directed options to create a full life in the community – as opposed to having the ability to select only from traditional options and supports. This is particularly evident from the commentary we have seen over the past few years on the HTF Facebook page.

The HTF believes there are several ways in which this situation can be improved:
- **The government should move rapidly to implement the intentions of the Services and Supports to Promote the Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, 2008 (*SIPDDA*).** While SIPDDA explicitly called for the development of procedures for direct funding to individuals, important relevant provisions have not yet been activated. The provincial government moved to amend the original act in 2018, in order to allow an additional five years for implementation of still unproclaimed SIPDDA components – and the HTF strongly recommends the quickest possible action on this front, so that direct/individualized funding becomes a reality well before 2023.

- **Current legislation, ineffective policies, and lack of financial resources place severe limitations on families who wish to plan, act, and contribute resources.** The result is a system of crisis 'intervention' as opposed to prevention. The HTF restates the need for government to commit to supporting a synergy-friendly environment - one that values partnerships with families, allows/encourages them to leverage their assets and abilities, and creates a space that supports a more flexible use of resources and family investments. (See Generating Ideas section of the Report, particularly Recommendations 2 and 3). Many positive outcomes could emerge from this approach, including greater long-term sustainability and cost-effectiveness. The HTF is aware of examples where people have combined Individualized Residential Support Funding and Passport funding to develop innovative housing solutions, but this self-designed/self-directed option has, historically, been available only in highly isolated situations. Funding for such innovative housing solutions has been limited to a previous MCSS-funded, time-limited option – the Individual Residential Model Initiative (IRMI) – and more recently through the HTF demonstration projects. There should be a more permanent vehicle for families to specifically request an innovative housing solution and funding. This should be tracked as such – as opposed to being grouped under the umbrella of "group living."

- **Microboards™ are another option that is gaining momentum in Canada** – (an incorporated legal entity intended for the support of one person.) While still a fairly new concept in Ontario[10], British Columbians and Manitobans have embraced this option, with multiple active Microboards™. Microboards™ can also act as the employer for the individual's support. Ideally, the government could flow support dollars directly to the Microboard™. This option is not yet supported in Ontario, where, currently, funds are required to flow through a Transfer Payment Agency (TPA). This minimizes the self-directed aspects of funding and adds additional costs due to a TPA's required administration charges.

- **Independent Facilitation and planning also works to support people** (and their families/support networks) in creating a meaningful life, wherein the person is supported to direct their life and participate alongside others as a contributing citizen. Though it is recognized that people often require some kind of support services, Independent Facilitation sees community as the 'first resource' and explores generic resources first. Independent Facilitators assist the person and family in developing personal support networks (if desired) and to make connections in the community, which, in turn, is instrumental in the planning and implementation of Innovative Housing Solution proposals. This includes helping the person to make decisions about long-term possibilities, to have his/her wishes understood, and to broaden his/her self-determination, choice, and control. Independent Facilitators help with developing an innovative housing proposal, the budget, and fostering connections with resources and

---

[10] **Microboards Ontario** is a recently established provincial organization committed to expanding this possibility for citizens in Ontario. Contact: Info@microboardsontario.com

partners such as: municipal housing resources, agencies that administer funds, DSO support staff, and support providers. The Independent Facilitator 'walks with' the person and family, while being intentional about supporting increased strengthening of the person/family/support network, in order to avoid promoting unnecessary dependency on services.

Independent Facilitators are free of conflict-of-interest because they are not part of an organization that offers residential or day programs. Additionally, they do not have any responsibility related to assessment, eligibility, service provision, or funding determinations. The relationship is ongoing and, therefore, Independent Facilitation is available for the person/family to re-engage as needed through the ebb and flow of life.

- **In consultation with individuals, families, and other stakeholders, the government should develop methods that would allow the effective utilization of family resources to expand the availability of housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.** Many families have resources to invest and want to create life-changing partnerships that would support customized and individualized living options for their loved ones. This option is not currently supported, thus, weakening the present system's capacity to more vigorously address critical wait lists.

- **Initiatives should also be undertaken to alleviate issues where agencies and families are experiencing a shortage of workers in the province.** This shortage is stressful not only for agencies with an infrastructure for recruitment, but also on people and families who are trying to engage hire and supports; the impacts and pressures on people and families as they attempt to find and retain supports are enormous. Direct Support Professionals typically work for an agency before contracting with a family – since agencies typically have the opportunity for higher wages, benefits, pension, etc. Few, if any, families have the funding to compete with agencies in this respect. This circumstance was instrumental in the development of the HTF-recommended DSW Worker Cooperative demonstration project. (For more information, refer to Appendix I). Through this and other projects that the HTF recommended for funding, we know that people and families continue to seek out different types of roles and support skills – community connector, someone with community development skills, someone with welcoming and hospitality skills etc. - along with the ability to support someone with very personal care needs - these are all disability related supports when community is a first resort.

  Often families would prefer to contract an agency, but then they:
  - pay higher rates, and
  - have fewer hours of support for their loved one.

People and families need assistance with the process of operating independent/self-directed supports. As reflected in the Citizen Focused Framework[11], separate functions can help support individuals and families who would choose Individualized Funding.

Overall, Ontario needs a new infrastructure to assist people and families to have power and control over their own lives. The Ontario Independent Facilitation Network (OIFN) calls this concept "Citizen Focused Framework." Such an infrastructure would create and allow for individual responsibility, by separating support functions, so people and their families could claim full citizenship. This infrastructure would be welcomed by many using Passport funds and by those who engaged in developing or maintaining Innovative Housing Solutions. The elements and functions of a Citizen Focused Framework include:

- Direct Individualized Funding
- Assistance in figuring things out (through Independent Facilitation)
- Support to people and families to find and manage staff, that is, to engage contractors and/or hire support workers, separate from existing direct support agencies
- Inclusive Lifelong Education and Learning opportunities
- Access to Housing Resources for affordable, accessible housing with ownership options.

Within the 18 demonstration projects, successful examples of collaborative housing innovations have utilized these types of functions, building on partnerships that go beyond what is offered by MCCSS alone, Examples include:

- Why Wait? (York Region) – With housing capital provided by the people supported (and their families), the project supported individuals with developmental disabilities using incorporated Microboards[TM] to ensure ongoing supportive decision-making; independent facilitator(s) to help increase informal supports, improve participants' quality of life, change community perceptions and increase community capacity to include people in full citizenship; and Individualized Funding appropriately directed to support requirements.
- Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor-Essex (family led by a Family Advisory Committee with Windsor Essex Family Network as one of the partners) – Eight people along with their families/networks created their own innovative, individualized housing arrangement with the support of Independent Facilitation. Some of their individualized housing proposals have been completed and sitting with various access centres for up to 14 years, as third party planning (now referred to as Independent Facilitation) has been available for 20 years in Windsor/Essex County. Seven (7) of the 8 people live with many complexities.

---

[11] Adapted from a *Person Directed Infrastructure: Creating Resources that Support Citizenship* written for OIFN by David Hasbury, November 2017. Foundational references in this Infrastructure document include: "Common Vision for Real Transformation Parts One and Two; and the IFCO Ad Hoc paper on Direct Funding, Working Toward an Empowerment Model." Additional information on Citizen Focused Framework in Appendix VII and on oifn.ca

- The Beat Goes On (Toronto, led by Partners for Planning)- An innovative person centred plan leveraged individualized, integrated community partnerships enabling D (the participant) to remain living in the community where her unique medical and developmental needs were be met. D benefits from ongoing support offered by an independent facilitator, including the facilitation of personal support network meetings. Community engagement has increased.
- Passage Vers Mon Propre Toit (Moving to a Place of My Own), a project led by La Coalition des Families Francophones d'Ottawa (CFFO) engaged independent facilitators in the process of supporting people and families to realize their aspirations
- Intensive Individualized Support Project (Montage Support Services) – The project focused on supporting an individual with developmental disabilities with highly complex emotional needs (dual diagnosis), sustaining long-term independence goals through individualized planning and ongoing support services.
- Neighbourly Homes (Community Living St. Marys and Area) – Originally intended to support one person, this project's focus on person-directed planning to support independent living and social inclusion, has assisted *four* adults with disabilities to access affordable housing through a combination of paid supports, Neighbourly Homes support and natural support from their families.

Within this context, the HTF has developed the following action items to *support further availability of individualized funding for supports for people with developmental disabilities, and champion the availability of a dedicated independent third-party resource to assist individuals and families in the design and implementation of an individualized innovative funding proposal and budget.* MCCSS should:

- Develop a set of guidelines, values and principles for Innovative Housing proposals and provide a 'stream' of annualized Individualized/Direct funding to enable the creation and implementation of person and family-driven Innovative Housing solutions (supported by the IMHTF's Provincial Housing Innovation Fund, as outlined in Recommendation 9 of this report)
- Support the innovation that can come from the creation and implementation of Microboards^{TM} and enable the ability to flow support dollars directly to these entities.
- Commit to providing annualized funding for Independent Facilitation across the province.
- Invest in the creation of a 'Citizen Focused Framework or Infrastructure' for people and families utilizing Individualized/Direct Funding.

New infrastructure needs to be invested in so that people and families and their networks and Microboards^{TM} can see that there is stability in these approaches as they plan for the future

C. EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND NETWORKS: COMMUNICATION, SYSTEM REFORM & TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

This final section of Housing Task Force recommendations aims to address a number of specific tactics that will enable action at the grassroots level by empowering individuals, families and networks. This can be achieved through focused communication initiatives as well as improvement and transformation of current DS processes, systems and language that may be hindering access to innovative and individualized housing solutions.

Recommendation 12: Community-Focused Communication Initiatives

The HTF recommends that MCCSS allocate funding and resources towards the implementation and ongoing maintenance of a central communications hub curated to include the most current information regarding funding and housing options including links to forms, updates, etc. This hub should be available and easily accessible to anyone with an interest in DS services and information.

In the first year of its mandate, the Housing Task Force set about prioritizing communication with the broader community, with the goal of helping individuals and families to be able to easily and quickly access information as well as to be able to network, collaborate and support each other in exploring and creating successful housing solutions. The HTF created, managed and moderated the DS Housing Task Force Facebook group, a simple, yet highly effective social forum that quickly grew to include over 1,600 followers, with a core group of active participants who regularly engaged with each other, initiated conversation topics and posted information related to housing issues and solutions specific to the DS community.

A Housing Task Force legacy, the Facebook page continues to be a go-to source for community updates, invitations to events, open forum discussions and relevant news for individuals, families and family networks as well as agency representatives, DSO coordinators and others "on-the-ground". As the end of the HTF mandate approached, ownership of the page was transitioned to Partners for Planning, an organization with a strong online presence which continues to operate and manage the platform, keeping the dialogue open and resources available to its members while growing its functionality. The page continues to act as hub focused entirely on housing innovation, but will be expanded to include a second, connected hub that will act as a 'bulletin-board' dealing with a wide range of developmental disability-focused news and information.

Considering the immense impact that this platform has had as a singular information hub for the community, the HTF recommends that MCCSS support the development of a complementary two-way communications hub that will:

- Gather and share relevant information in plain language, to provide greater transparency and easy access to government-specific initiatives and programs as well as relevant external resources and
- Become a hub for families and networks to be able to ask questions and obtain appropriate answers or direction towards uncovering information. Many individuals, families and networks continue to grapple with an understanding of how the "system" works. They aren't routinely made aware of updates or changes to the system or of ongoing community information sessions where they can learn about how things work, what is available to them, and where they can go for support in their area.

> *"We have two sons with developmental disabilities (ages 28 & 30) and are actively seeking housing for them. We have been attending housing meetings for years now but it seems we are no further ahead and we don't really know where to go for help."* - Facebook comment, from a parent in the Ottawa area.

Many are simply frustrated by the lack of opportunity to share their stories or lack of support in the areas they live in, particularly when it comes to locations in northern Ontario.

> *"Frankly I am very tired. Our family is a time bomb. We are getting older and he is getting more aggressive. We cannot wait 10 years or more. Our barriers: like everyone else it's time, money, energy. Also distances we have to travel. Our area is wide spread, so getting people together is a challenge. Also we are maxed out for physical 'spaces' to house our loved ones. We would have to build and up here that would take a lot of money. We seem to be fragmented in the delivery of services. There does not seem to be any partnering…"* – Facebook comment, from a parent in North Bay.

Once again, regular community consultations and forums for knowledge-sharing and discussion is recommended, with all updates and new information posted to the central hub in a timely fashion, in both official languages and in plain language to ensure consistency, parity and accessibility for all.

Recommendation 13: Adjusting the Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) Application and Support Process

The HTF recommends that the role of DSO with regard to supporting individuals in accessing appropriate housing be clarified across the province, in order to better identify appropriate and available housing options.

Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) agencies are responsible for ensuring that families and individuals seeking housing solutions understand DSO processes, systems and language, and are made aware of all housing options available to them. The HTF is concerned that individuals and families across the province are not being provided with sufficient information on available and appropriate options, and that many families are not aware of all of the options available to them. For example, a survey conducted by the HTF in February 2018, polled individuals and families who applied through the DSO process, inquiring as to whether they requested an innovative housing solution and were aware of this possibility. Results indicated that some DSO Regions still track information for requests and proposals submitted for individualized innovative housing solutions, and others do not. The positive 'legacy' of this kind of innovative housing solution funding and option remains from the "Individual Residential Model Initiative" (IRMI) funding of 2005-2006.

In addition, the HTF is concerned that individuals' and families' innovative ideas and solutions are not adequately recorded or reflected in the current DSO application system. For example, families have shared anecdotally that their requests for housing are frequently categorized as a desire for 'group home' living, when this may not be the case. The HTF strongly advocates for a revision to the current DSO application to include a specific option for innovative housing requests, not to be marked as 'group home.' This will provide MCCSS with a more accurate representation of the actual number of individuals and families that make this request and desire this as an option.

Accordingly, the HTF recommends that all DSOs develop standardized information sharing and recording procedures that have the flexibility to address and respond to local needs. In particular, the DSO should be responsible to convey information about housing options in clear and accessible formats and through a variety of sharing methods (including their websites), even if specific housing options are not currently available within their community(s). The DSO should also track and maintain statistics reflecting identified housing needs and preferences across the province, which will provide valuable information for planning and service purposes.

MCCSS, given the recent merger with Children and Youth Services, is in a unique position to champion an approach that embraces transitional planning for children with developmental disabilities in Ontario. This should include collecting demographic information through the school system and utilizing Individual Educational Plans (IEP) to predict needs (i.e. current and

future needs of school-age children) that will help circumvent crisis situations down the road. Indeed, this presents yet another opportunity where the HTF calls upon MCCSS to enable action that supports pro-active, person-centered/person-directed, "whole of government"/"whole of society" and partnership-based planning approaches that will empower individuals and families in Ontario.

As a part of their mandate, the HTF-recommended Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) could also champion a formalized process or annual 'call for submissions' for families to apply for an Individual Residential Model Initiative (IRMI) or its funding equivalent for innovative housing solutions. At the moment, there is no process for this option. The HTF suggests that MCCSS implement a reporting mechanism and expectation that DSO's track individuals' requests for innovative housing and report it as part of the Multi-year Residential Planning (MYRP) process, aggregated for MCCSS Partnership Table and Inter-ministerial collaborative efforts.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the 13 recommendations in this Housing Task Force final report will address the severe housing problems confronting adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. There are multiple tools and resources available to support innovative ideas and energized actions that are desperately needed for sustainable housing options to emerge and flourish. For example, the encouragement of partnerships, the fostering of consultation, and the expansion of individualized Funding will give citizens greater control over their lives, while also expanding overall capacity to resolve this worsening problem.

(An overview of this Report's recommendations and key "action items" can be found in Appendix II.)

For too long, the approach to housing needs within Ontario's developmental services system has been crisis-driven and crisis-generating. It has locked people into long-term, life-long dependency that is simultaneously very costly. Government resources and leadership will always be needed for vulnerable sectors of the population, but responsibilities can and should be shared more effectively and productively. The innovations proposed in this report will allow citizens and communities to play the more expansive roles they are able and anxious to take up, while allowing government to serve people with greater care and efficiency.

1. Bridges to Housing		
	Toronto	
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Bridges to Housing **Additional Resources:** Synthesis of the Literature of How Supportive Housing Can Support Wellness	

Current Contacts	Dr. Sylvain Roy sroy@innercityfht.ca	Monica Waldman Monica.Waldman@toronto.ca	Frances McNeil fmacneil@cltoronto.ca	Terri Hewitt Terri.Hewitt@surreyplace.on.ca	Jo Connelly Del Junco jconnelly@innercityfht.ca

Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
City of Toronto: Shelter, Support & Housing Division • Seaton House • Streets to Homes Community Living Toronto: Adult Protective Services Inner City Family Health Team Surrey Place Developmental Services Ontario Toronto Region, Adult Clinical Services Team St Michael's Hospital and CAMH (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	This Cross-sectoral collaboration will offer a multi-disciplinary, integrated, approach to provide housing and supports to individuals experiencing homelessness, who are identified with developmental disabilities with complex health needs, and reduce the reliance on other costly provincially funded services, and providing needed primary medical care, housing supports and case management support. Bring private landlords and other housing providers and the City of Toronto together to develop a Framework for providing supports and access to appropriate housing for people with developmental disabilities who are experiencing homeless and to increase the choices and enable access to housing options. Identify gaps in housing supports available for people with complex, long terms needs experiencing homelessness	Improved screening practices in shelters achieved using the innovation of the Rapid Assessment of Residential Supports (RARS), resulting in improved pathway with shorter timeframes to DSO to better support individuals who are experiencing homeless with suspected Developmental Disability. Ongoing development of an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to support and services for those with developmental disability and multiple diagnosis such as mental health, acquired brain injury, and health issues complexities resulting from years of post-traumatic stress, substance misuse and chronic homelessness. Significant work in raising cross-sectorial awareness of developmental disability and homelessness, which continues In increased collaboration between the shelter system and DS sector, as well as between Ministries. Sustainability of housing and adequate supports to remain in the housing: housing stability achieved for 25 people, deep affordability was addressed with housing allowances; people faced some discrimination due to lack of references and some social discrimination depending on housing type. What is acceptable to the person and importance to people to still feel a sense of connectedness was key. Created Collaborative of the Willing: Informal, ad hoc advisory group to engage in cross sector information sharing, problem solving and idea generation to meet the unique needs of this population. Shared ongoing learning from the gaps and challenges identified in housing supports

2. Community Hub Residential Model Campbellford/Brighton		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Community Hub Residential Model	
Current Contact	Nancy Brown nbrown@communitylivingcampbellford.com	
Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
Community Living Campbellford/ Brighton Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD) Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) Community Care Northumberland Victorian Order of Nurses Trent Hills Palliative Care Collaboration Committee Campbellford and District Community Mental Health	Research confirms that people with intellectual disabilities now live longer than previously expected. This growing demographic requires higher levels of care and currently there is a service gap. This project will review Community Living Campbellford/ Brighton existing practices that may perpetuate an unintentional systematic disadvantage for aging people with developmental disabilities. The rurally-based project will design and implement an innovative Community Hub and develop partnerships between the developmental services and health care sectors to provide supports to aging individuals with developmental disabilities in the surrounding rural areas to support continued independent living.	Six adults no longer require typical residential supports ie. group home/ long-term care, and are now living in their own homes, with access to 24 hour, with the benefit of the support of the Community Hub approach Participants are maintaining independence in their own community with supports specific to their needs; able to access and benefit from community-based services such as Occupational Therapy, Physio Therapy, Diabetic Specialists, Housing Specialists. With the strengthening of partnerships people participating within the HUB have had their individual support needs met by using community partners and resources. This has increased community participation and community engagement for each person supported. Multiple Partnerships strengthened as a result of the success of the project, bridging gaps between health and developmental services.

3. Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor Essex County		
Windsor-Essex		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor Essex County **Additional Resources:** https://windsoressexfamnet.ca/continuing-housing-innovation/	
Current Contacts	Mary Kopcok mary_kopcok@hotmail.com	Michelle Friesen mfriesen@windsoressexfamnet.ca
Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports City of Windsor Community Living Windsor Private Contractors (Alliance General Contracting and Flex Custom Home Solutions) Windsor-Essex Family Network	This family led project by a Family Advisory Committee will bring together eight people along with their families/networks to create their own innovative, individualized housing arrangement with the support of Independent Facilitation. Some of these individualized housing proposals have been submitted previously to various access centres for up to 14 years as third party planning, now referred to as Independent Facilitation, has supported people and families in innovative housing proposal development, as this facilitation has been available for 20 years in Windsor/Essex County. Seven (7) of the 8 people live with many complexities. Eight (8) innovative housing arrangements, six of which include housing funding in partnership with the City of Windsor are expected to involve: renovations to added suites within existing homes; renovation of private home purchased by family; purchase of 2 private homes; a housing allowance to secure market rental apt; renovations to secondary suite, which requires extra funding; and completing renovations with in-kind contributions via private contractors.	Each of the 8 people engaged with the project have their own appropriate housing solution. Each of the 8 people now have their own individualized and customized housing solutions, with supports tailored according to their specific wants and needs. o 2 renos for added for suites within existing homes o 1 reno of private home purchased by family o Purchased 2 private homes – one with a housing trust o 1 housing allowance secured market rental apt o 1 family completed renos to secondary suite, which required extra funding for long-term sustainability o 1 family also completed renos with in-kind contributions via private contractors All of the people involved report they have maintained or are more connected to their communities than before the project. New work, volunteer commitments and/or social events were made possible by enhanced supports allowing participants to be more engaged in their communities. Stories shared by people and their families at My Life My Choice events regarding community connections, citizenship contributions, use of technology, including housing solutions

4. The Beat Goes On		
Toronto		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: The Beat Goes On	
Current Contact	Jeff Dobbin jdobbin@p4p.ca	
Project Lead & Partners	**Overview of Project**	**Overview of Outcomes**
Partners for Planning (P4P) Family and Friends Personal Support Workers Colleges Agencies DSO	An innovative, person-centred plan leveraging individualized, integrated community partnerships enabling an individual with complex developmental and medical needs to live in a self-contained area in a family home and remain living in the community where her unique medical and developmental needs will be met. Through well-established and newly developed networks, D will live supported in a self-contained suite within the family home and continue living there when her parents are no longer able to care for her. The family will provide stability, continuity of care and knowledge transfer to those caring for D. Independent facilitation will be offered to benefit D, her family and personal network.	D's name removed from residential wait list. Independent facilitation assistance benefited D, her family and personal network. An individualized care plan was launched and is now shared among family members, support people and others in D's life. Videos and binders created demonstrating personal care routines; supplies, schedules, equipment. iPad communicates day and night time routines, needs, medication etc. ensuring consistent communication. Stories downloaded for D who can advance pages by herself, thus assisting cognitive skills, signing and vocabulary. An Independent Facilitator contacts the family bi-weekly and facilitates network meetings with extended family three times per year. Significant respite now possible for primary caregivers, i.e. experiences with short vacations as Ds mom now sharing intensive care via individualized care plan. Siblings and cousins involved in D's care. D is well known and loved in her community, enjoying drumming and drama classes, music lessons, bowling with her cousins.

5. Housing is a Community Issue Central & Eastern Ontario		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Housing is a Community Issue **Additional Resources:** Housing website - imagininghome.ca, Housing video and podcast (hosted by Empowering Abilities)	
Current Contact	Janet Klees jklees@dafrs.com	
Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
Durham Association for Family Resources and Support Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement Intentionally Built Community family group Durham Housing Housing Leeds Grenville Wall Street United Church Legacy Homes Proactive Families Ordinary citizens Family support orgs Local planners and Developers, realtors, financers, and experts Regional housing services and local housing tables	In this unique collaboration, a dedicated housing coordinator will help a number of families use typical community resources (e.g., banks, realtors) to find and secure the kind of housing that would best suit the person with the developmental disability, recognizing the family resources available and calling on personal networks for ideas and connections. Learnings will be shared with other families and agencies. Two family support organizations, two family-governed housing initiatives, two regional housing services, and a number of proactive families looking for housing for and with their member with a disability in two eastern regions, will partner to assist 4-6 families in their individual, person-centered approach to securing housing solutions via networking using typical community resources.	**DAFRS:** Nine people have moved into homes of their own or into their own apartments within the family home. The family group continues to meet monthly to pursue agendas of portable subsidies, renovation loans and a regional-based housing fund. Intentionally Built Community family group working with developers on new builds now incorporated, further gains with new project in Courtice. Families/staff invited to present ideas at provincial and national conferences, local councils, a small roundtable hosted by the Lieutenant Governor, Regional Budget Meeting, and National Strategy on Housing. **BDACI**: Six people (five with significant disabilities) have moved into houses of their own, close to where they grew up, near their families. Closer working relationship with Housing Manager at the municipality that will be ongoing has been achieved. Hosted a well-attended Housing Forum in May 2017 (approx. 100 people attended). More families curious, keen and committed to planning earlier to create a typical home options for family member. **OVERALL / BOTH COMMUNITITES:** New families continue to join the Housing Group; many families exposed to new ideas (which continues). Project successfully shifted conversation in the Region so that housing is viewed separately from support (enabling housing officials to view housing for people with disabilities as within their purview, rather than MCCSS). Housing was the catalyst for support plans and funding, hence the right housing kept budgets reasonable.

6. Housing Trust Project Ottawa		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Housing Trust Project **Additional Resources:** A Feasibility Study for a Housing Trust for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities in Ottawa-Carleton	
Current Contacts	Brian J. Tardif btardif@citizenadvocacy.org	Heather Lacey hlacey@citizenadvocacy.org
Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Citizen Advocacy Ottawa People with Disabilities and other informants Local family groups Families Matter Cooperative United Families of Eastern Ontario	Partnering with Families Matter Cooperative, Citizen Advocacy Ottawa will examine how aging parents of individuals with developmental disabilities can develop housing trusts for homeownership and property management. This project responds to the need for information on how to bequeath homes to adult children with developmental disabilities. Families have indicated a preference for ensuring housing and support for daily living remains separate.	Key Findings: Existing policy frameworks fail to address the needs of an aging population of caregivers and growing numbers of adults with intellectual disabilities outliving parents represents a pressing need to identify viable housing trust models. Support for housing initiatives can be found at all three levels of government. Any models moving forward must separate housing costs from support costs to minimize conflicting interests. Needs can be met using various sources of funding. A need to better understand financial dynamics of families supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities to help identify needed policy interventions. *Recommendations include establishing a local Community Housing Trust and Advisory Board, and creating an Ottawa-Carleton Housing Trust for Persons with Developmental Disabilities ***See Additional Resources for full report**

7. Imaginative Living Options
Brantford

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Imaginative Living Options
Current Contact	Debbie Cavers debbiecavers@clbrant.com

Project Lead & Partners	Overview of Project	Overview of Outcomes
Community Living Brant Local university/college students Local senior groups City of Brantford's Affordable Housing project Local landlords Family, friends and other natural supports	Partnering with the City of Brantford Housing Department, this project will look at how to best use existing resources in a variety of non-traditional ways, such as matching a senior living alone with someone with a developmental disability and develop a full range of imaginative and innovative housing and support options for adults with a developmental disability that are based on personal choice, rather than connected to traditional developmental services. Along with securing new housing options for participants, Community Living Brant will foster the creation of natural support networks to create a sense of belonging and contribution for and by the person within their community.	Repurposing of group homes and resources successfully redirected to support people in their own apartments in buildings with enhanced support and access to 24-hour support. One repurposed group home has been re-designated as LifeShare, with one adult with complex needs occupying main level, receiving overnight support from upstairs housemate. Plans included repurposing of second home completed by March 31, 2018. Partnership agreements with City of Brantford led to extra housing supplements for an additional 16 people enabling them to rent their own apartments. CL Brant has participated in community presentations and events to recruit a broad of people considering sharing their lives or homes with people, including a successful engagement with Laurier University students on participating in LifeShare, and recruitment of retired seniors as LifeShare providers offering mutual companionship and support for adults with developmental disabilities. A successful LifeShare marketing strategy includes web, print and billboards.

8. Intensive Individualized Support Project	
Toronto	

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Intensive Individualized Support Project
Current Contact	Brian Woodman bwoodman@montagesupport.ca

Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Montage Support Services Family Service Toronto Family of participant	The project will explore a housing arrangement for an individual with complex mental health needs. Montage Support Services will partner with Family Service Toronto to provide a residential support arrangement that offers emotional support, building daily living skills and routines, as well as supporting community engagement. The family partnership will explore the capital costs needed to sustain home ownership.	Planning and support team for participant established at outset. Project leads met continually to assess progress. Adjustments were made to plan based on extenuating circumstances, such as the death of AL's father, and loss of another roommate. While certain situations triggered anxiety, personalized approach and team work through the project enabled the appropriate, responsive solutions, thus sustaining AL's living situation. Significant improvement and reduction in anxiety have been noted at various points throughout the two-year project. As a result of learning and experience through the project there has been capacity building in Montage Support Services to better support people with dual diagnosis.

9. Neighbourly Homes
St. Marys and Area

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Neighbourly Homes	
Current Contacts	Marg McLean mmclean@clstmarys.ca	Miriam Schut mschut@clstmarys.ca

Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Community Living St. Marys and Area Participant and her family POL Quality Homes Inc. City of Stratford Housing Division Habitat for Humanity Developmental Services Ontario Neighbourly support Extended family Housemate	In partnership with the City of Stratford, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Habitat for Humanity, this project will introduce a "supportive neighbour" who is available for assistance and supports an individual with a developmental disability on a 24/7 basis helping a local person with a developmental disability to continue living as independently as possible in their own home. The supportive neighbour will receive affordable housing and a small per diem amount in exchange for providing support. This creative partnership with the private sector and local organizations will be a cost-effective way to support a young local person with a developmental disability to live independently, while enhancing social inclusion and increasingly local affordable housing.	Initial application was geared towards assisting *one* person with a developmental disability to find affordable accessible housing with support. Ultimately, this project assisted *four* adults with developmental disabilities to access affordable housing. Two families now have affordable places, fully accessible and barrier free. Two people (who would traditionally have had paid hourly support 24/7) now have a mix of paid supports, Neighbourly Homes support and natural support from their families. Neighbourly Homes families are providing support to the person based in value-based person directed planning. Although time spent together is scheduled, *how* people spend the time together is determined by the person and the support family, which looks different for each person in accordance to their person directed plan. People socialize in their homes, go for walks in the community, attend local events, run errands, have family and friends for dinner, etc. Community Living St. Marys and Area has representation on the Housing First Committee and continues to work in partnership with the Housing Division of the City of Stratford to support people with disabilities to obtain affordable housing.

10. Peterborough TAY Transitional Housing Pilot Project
Peterborough, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Peterborough TAY Transitional Housing Pilot Project **Additional Resources:**,Literature Review: Promising Models of Housing and Support for Transition-Aged Youth with Dual Diagnosis Final Report available: *Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Innovative Housing Model*
Current Contact	Mark Graham mgraham@cmhahkpr.ca

Project Lead & Partners	Overview of Project	Overview of Outcomes
Community Living Peterborough Canadian Mental Health Association (Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge) Community Living Kawartha Lakes Community Living Haliburton County Tri-County Community Support Services	Every year, approximately 1,000 children with a developmental disability turn 18 years old. This demonstration project will provide young adults the opportunity to learn daily living skills such as cooking and banking, so they are equipped to live more independently in their community. Partners include Community Living organizations in Peterborough, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes. This will be a two-phase project: A planning phase preceding a pilot project for transition housing for eligible young persons, Transition-Aged Youth (TAY) with developmental disabilities (and/or dual diagnosis), for up to two years. Primary project intention will be building youth capacity to move toward independent life and housing in the community, with or without ongoing supported independent living (SIL), as may be required. The project is based on sharing of existing housing resources—bricks and mortar, as well as attached support dollars—between MCCSS and MOHLTC/Ministry of Housing.	While transitions of care weren't specifically evaluated, data sources indicate high participant satisfaction. Due to the success of the Transition-Aged Youth (TAY) program, a second Transition-Aged Youth case manager was added to an existing Supported Independent Living program, providing capacity to support an additional 6-8 individuals. Some participants' support needs decreased. For example, one person is moved out of a supported environment to greater independence. Participants have been involved in skill-building activities to assist in maintaining stable mental health and in increasing activities of daily living skills. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills has helped stabilized mental health when needed. A cooking group includes meal-planning and shopping for the ingredients. Staff assist youth in their apartments to work on daily living skills. A certified yoga instructor provides weekly yoga classes to support physical activity, meditation and mindfulness. Final Report available: *Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Innovative Housing Model*

11. Habitat for Humanity Heartland Listowel / London		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Habitat for Humanity Heartland	
Current Contact	Mark Phillips mphillips@clnorthperth.ca	
Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
Community Living North Perth Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario	This will be the inaugural partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Community Living North Perth to create an affordable housing option for adults with developmental disabilities with low income. Habitat for Humanity will build a semi-detached house, with project funding to be used for staffing to provide the individuals with sufficient support to live independently in their new home. The collaboration intends to build a semi-detached, three-bedroom, 1 bath bungalow with about 950 sq. ft. on the main floor, on land procured from the Town of North Perth. One half of this new home will be designated for two men with a developmental disability, who have waited for many years to secure appropriate homes of their own, with appropriate 24 hour supports (one of whom has lived in a long-term care facility).	An interest-free mortgage for this successful new build ensured affordability for the two participants. Their respective ODSP Shelter Allowances covered the interest-free mortgage, held by CLNP, in addition to other housing and land expenses (taxes etc.). Shared overall costs also made the project more affordable. Up-to-date amenities and an accessible structure provide a safe environment for the two men receiving 24 hr supports. The men are connected to community and have developed close bonds with the Habitat family. This community-based project has increased Community Living North Perth's visibility: other people supported by Community Living North Perth are asking about and witnessing the organization's involvement in providing new housing opportunities for low-income people.

12. Person-Directed Facilitator Approach Smiths Falls		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Person-Centered Facilitator Approach	
Current Contacts	Heidi Bedor hbedor@lcss.agency	Debi McEwan debimcewan.lcss@gmail.com
Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
Lanark Country Support Services Lanark Housing Lanark Mental Health Developmental Support Services Rideau Community Health Centre Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) Family Network and Personal Support Networks	Four adults with developmental disabilities with complex medical needs and mental health support needs, will move into their own apartments with personalized supports based on their own schedules, routines and requirements. With the individual, Family and Support Networks will monitor, adjust and/or request changes that may be required, based on preferences of the person. Renovations on a three-story duplex home in the heart of Smiths Falls will provide modifications to ensure accessibility, safety and security and local community access. Accommodations will person-specific and person centered.	All individuals living in the Church Street Apartments in Smiths Falls have moved in and have detailed and specific person-directed plans. Participants and support teams has a user-friendly, accessible and ongoing process to comfortably express ideas, changes or concerns as they may arise. Each person has their own schedule and flexible supports based on their needs, lifestyle, culture, interests and preferences in all areas. Personal growth, increased confidence and greatly improved self-esteem are evident in all individuals at Church Street. Without this innovative project in place, all four individuals would require a higher level of support than the traditional Supported Independent Living supports and therefore would have remained on a wait list for a higher-cost (and less effective) traditional model.

13. Just Enough Support Ottawa		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Just Enough Support_LiveWorkPlay **Additional Resources:** Just Enough Support Video Series	
Current Contact	Julie Kingstone julie.kingstone@liveworkplay.ca	
Project Lead & Partners	***Overview of Project***	***Overview of Outcomes***
LiveWorkPlay Participants and their family members Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI) Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC) Neighbours and other citizens in the community Mills Community Support Just Enough Support Training	This project will provide person-centered training and Just Enough Support to 12 adults with developmental disabilities and each of their family/support networks to develop and launch a support plan enabling each person to move into a home of their own. A Natural Neighbours program will recruit a minimum of 12 neighbours (one per person) to provide support and a friendly face in the immediate neighbourhood. Supportive neighbors and advocates will also help to build an inclusive community. By early 2017, six individuals will occupy their own one-bedroom, below-market rent unit, owned and operated by Multi-Faith Housing. By the start of 2018, six additional people will occupy their own one-bedroom below-market unit owned and operated by Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC).	Seven participants are now residing at the Haven, and another eight people residing in scattered units across the city. The second development led by CCOC (Old Ottawa East build) was not funded. Given such, LiveWorkPlay identified participants who were interested in owning a home of their own, had access to a rent subsidy or a home of their own they could otherwise afford, and then assisted each with Just Enough Support planning, and with finding natural supports to coordinate with paid supports. To date, 14 individuals and family members have taken part in Just Enough Support (JES) training and all 14 have developed an individualized plan based on JES principles. Thirteen adults have at least one volunteer match who provides natural support which assists the individual to live in their home. Six videos were produced are available online based in the principles and experience of this project. While the feasibility study was not funded, certainly this project indicated that rent supplements would reduce barriers to individuals to move out on their own.

14. Lifetime Independent Facilitation / Why Wait?
York Region

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Why Wait?	
Current Contacts	Kelly Casey kcpsolutions@gmail.com	Brian Woodman bwoodman@montagesupport.ca
Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Montage Support Services York Support Services Network York Region Lifetime Independent Facilitators, initially lead partner, stepped back from role on the Project Steering Committee	Project intends to generate individualized housing solutions for eight adults with a developmental disability based on direction of and collaboration with people and families, prototyping four new housing options. Common components proposed to support long-term sustainability for each person to demonstrate the link between people directing their lives and Direct Funding and Fee-for-Service providers, to include: Independent Facilitation, the function of their Microboards™, strong Personal Support Networks, and third party quality oversight. Community learning series to support people and families in directing individualized solutions in intentional, proactive way; series also to increase information base, interest and capacity of service/support agencies and organizations to respond to people and families' interest in direct funding and individualized funding options, and engagement in supporting housing solutions.	All eight families have incorporated Microboards™. Several families have an interest in Ministry funding being directed to the Microboard. One of the individuals and their family requested funding be transferred to another brokerage agency, which was accomplished. Each person has developed a personal vision for community life and their preferred housing, with the support of independent facilitation, along with their family, personal support network and Microboard™ through person-directed planning. Most families used their resources to purchase support services directly rather through a support agency. Hiring and coordinating support staff is recognized as time consuming and demanding for families, and assistance with managing staff, hiring & training is important while maintaining self-direction. Technology worked well to support some individuals, reducing need for 24 staffing support. Independent facilitation is seen by people and families part of the project as essential. In particular, families with limited community connections and/or extended family described this role as one of a trusted advisor who is able to provide critical information and support. Six (*non MCSS funded*) agencies continue to be involved with *Why Wait* and engage in discussions with families/individuals to support their visions. Two new fee-for-service agencies are providing individualized supports through Why Wait-identified needs. Since May 2016, *Why Wait* has held four community learning events in which 158 attendees participated.

15. "Devine" Life
Sarnia / Lambton

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: A "Devine Life"
Current Contact	Nick Salaris nsalaris@lcds.on.ca

Project Lead & Partners	Overview of Project	Overview of Outcomes
Lambton County Developmental Services Habitat for Humanity Family members (immediate and extended) Lambton College School of Community Services: Student Placements via Circles Program Life Plan Facilitators	The project will provide affordable housing through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity for two people with a developmental disability to move into a newly built home. In collaboration with community services, supports will be provided through the combined partnerships between the Circles Program of the Lambton College Social Services Department, Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS), and the commitment of family members.	A Key Ceremony was held for newly-built, partially accessible house which included a finished basement suite for live-in support Person-centered plans completed based on *"My Home, My Identity, My Relationships, My Health, My Safety"* Both men have participated in Circles program activities through the College Families worked well together, including work on scheduling and invoicing of support, agreed-upon times for home visits by family, including 'time off' for live-in support person per agreement New community connections have been established including church volunteering, hiking local trails, local concerts, volunteering at nursing home immediately nearby, inviting friends over and becoming regulars at weekly farmers' market in season Respite services no longer used. This was a very cost-effective living arrangement with shared supports. No longer needed are an apartment and a long-term care arrangement.

16. Smart support-Technology Enabled Services
Essex County

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Smart Support-Technology Enabled Services **Additional Resources:** Smart Support video, REAL Xchange offers more specific information and direct inquiries
Current Contacts	Karen Bolger karen@communitylivingessex.org

Project Lead & Partners	Overview of Project	Overview of Outcomes
Community Living Essex County St. Clair College University of Windsor Imagine! SmartHomes John McGivney Children's Centre Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare	Inclusive, affordable, community-based living for adults with a developmental disability will be possible by enhancing living spaces with innovative and advanced technology-enabled services. Smart Support –Technology Enabled Services will significantly reduce the cost of residential supports while enhancing community connections, independence, self-confidence, safety and security, and employment skills for people purchasing residential services. The latest technology is flexible and portable, can be customized for preferences, needs and available resources; can facilitate communication, answer a person's questions, provide safety mechanisms, educational resources, and access to direct support professionals as needed. During the first few months of the pilot, direct support workers will facilitate natural support connections, in order to increase independence and quality of life. Over a two-year period, support hours will be gradually reduced with the result being sustainable supports requiring less funded resources.	Meaningful social inclusion, community engagement and independence in housing solutions has been enhanced by the introduction of new technology. People supported with new technology describe enhanced quality of life with increased friendships and engagement with natural support networks. While no formalized research was completed with educational institutions in relation to enhanced quality of life, considerable qualitative information and anecdotal evidence is available for analysis. Customizing the technology to suit each person's lifestyle and needs is a very dynamic trial and error process. Learning includes that technology is a support resource that needs to complement, and thus enhance, other supports provided. The approach is to support self-determination and desired independence, while managing any risk. A Guide naming leading edge practices will be delivered in an innovative way using technology.

17. Developmental Service Worker Co-operative Development Project
Ottawa

Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Developmental Service Worker Cooperative Development Project **Additional Resources:** DSW Co-op website	
Current Contacts	Minda Bojin mindabojin@gmail.com	Laura Rogal-Black rogall@algonquincollege.com

Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology Disability Advocacy Network of Eastern Ontario (formerly United Families of Eastern Ontario) LiveWorkPlay	Individuals, families, agencies, educators, government representatives and Developmental Services Workers will address lack of available support services readily accessed on individuals' terms, in their own homes. New worker co-operatives will offer nimble, community-based, person-directed supports to adults with disabilities, wherever those adults choose to live. Community consultations will inform a feasibility study of the development of a developmental services worker-owned co-operative to offer flexible, responsive, community-based, person-directed supports to adults with disabilities, wherever those adults choose to live. The process of establishing and managing worker co-operatives will be assessed and learning materials to address those needs will be developed. Worker co-operative business development support will be provided to developmental services workers interested in starting a DSW Co-operative. Through this project, a co-operative business developer will provide support throughout the business plan development process.	Community response to the initial launch of the DSW Co-operative Development Project was positive. The feasibility study was complete by January of 2017, and interested developmental services workers began receiving business development support shortly thereafter. The DSW Co-operative was awarded $15,000 in start-up funding through the William G Davis Innovation fund competition, which also prompted positive media coverage of the initiative. The DSW Co-operative was incorporated in the Spring of 2018 by the four developmental services workers who received business development support through this project. The DSW Co-operative then secured a Tenacity Works loan from the Canadian Worker Co-operative Federation. The DSW Co-operative currently actively employs six developmental services workers, and seven additional workers are available to be matched with clients. As of mid-November, 2018, the DSW Co-op had earned over $17,000 through direct services offered to clients since its launch. The average number of service hours provided/week has been increasing steadily; in the first two weeks of November, 127 service hours were provided to clients by the DSW Co-operative. Potential implications of the DSW Cooperative on housing decisions cannot yet be assessed; it is expected that the DSW Co-op will need time to continue to grow before it exerts significant influence on housing decisions. The publication of resources to support this process is pending.

18. Passage Vers Mon Propre Toit (Moving to My Own Place) Ottawa		
Link to Online Brochure	P4P Project Overview: Passage Vers Mon Toit **Additional Resources:** Guide (FR), Guide (EN), Leçons (FR), Lessons (EN), Coming Together 2018: My Home, My Community! Seminar 1: The Provincial Vision (video) , Seminar 1: The Provincial Vision (presentation), All documents, CFFO landing page, CFFO's last update	
Current Contact	Serge Lavoie serge.lavoie@cffo-ottawa.org	
Project Lead & Partners	*Overview of Project*	*Overview of Outcomes*
la Coalition des familles francophones d'Ottawa (CFFO) l'Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa (AISO) le Regroupement des partenaires francophones d'Ottawa Developmental Services Ontario Eastern Region (DSO Eastern Region) University of Ottawa La Cité	This project will create self-evaluation and lessons learned tools and resources to help individuals, families, guardians and stakeholders: reduce administrative work; and define individualized housing solutions and practical support requirements for adults with developmental disabilities, to help address the lack of affordable housing in their neighborhood, that is, close to their support network, particularly in the Ottawa-Orléans area. CFFO will develop a Housing Transition Guide called *Moving to a Place of my Own!* which aims to encourage the independence of people with developmental disabilities in their search for support and affordable housing. The project will focus on supporting 11 adults and their families by creating resources, sharing knowledge and developing partnerships to build capacity to make a smooth transition to housing offering the greatest independence possible, in a safe environment within their community. The resource of Independent Facilitation will be offered to individuals and families. The final report will describe the issues and avenues for reflection for participants and their families, stakeholders, regional coordination bodies for housing with integrated support, local agencies, government program managers, and all other individuals or groups interested in housing transition issues for people with developmental disabilities.	A comprehensive guide and resources are the result of this collaborative project over a 22-month period. Available in both paper and electronic form, the Guide is a simple and practical resource that lists and details leading edge practices, innovative solutions and available resources that support a transition to housing for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Resources identified are of particular interest to people living in the Ottawa region who would like to plan for a transition toward a new, person-centered living environment. Reports identified systemic challenges as well as innovative solutions. ***See Final Reports under Additional Resources listed above**

Overview of HTF Final Report Recommendations and Items for MCCSS Action

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
GENERATING IDEAS *WHOLE OF GOVERNEMENT* 1. Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF)	The Housing Task Force recommends formation of an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) charged with identifying and developing opportunities for "whole of government" initiatives. The IMHTF would both address <u>and</u> look beyond the current crisis, in order to develop transformative steps that would prevent the re-emergence of crisis situations in the future.	❐ Form an Inter-ministerial Housing Task Force (IMHTF) to include representatives of relevant ministries and government departments as well as the broader community. ❐ Set a mandate to generate both guiding principles and annual proposals for specific demonstration projects. ❐ Design "whole of government" approaches to DS housing funding streams. ❐ Prepare an annual report to the Premier, demonstrating potential value of "whole of government" approaches to DS housing needs.
2. Inter-ministerial Policy Review	A wide-ranging policy research and review should be undertaken, led by the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and supported by ministries with related and relevant concerns (e.g. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services) <u>and</u> municipalities. The research would serve to identify current policy (and existing rules and directives) that may be <u>limiting</u> innovation as well as the most effective use of funding and supports.	❐ Develop a plan for and execute an all-encompassing Inter-ministerial Policy Review initiative to include: 　▪ Input, feedback and examples of system and service barriers, policy shortcomings and examples of 'work arounds' from interrelated Ministries, MCCSS Program Supervisors and Managers, municipalities and Service Managers, service agencies, individuals and families, and other community/support stakeholders. 　▪ An honest and open review of current parameters and 'rule-bending' ideas that might better support experience-driven housing innovations. ❐ Prepare a year-end report to the Premier, with possible review by the Auditor General, identifying key findings with recommendations for policy change.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
WHOLE OF SOCIETY 3. "Housing and Housing Supports" Research & Consultation Initiatives	There should be an investment in the continual exploration and consultation of housing innovation specific to both the availability and creation of physical housing and the creative use of supports/funding. These initiatives would help set the stage for changes in the current crisis-based system of prioritization, moving towards providing greater choice and flexibility to people with developmental disabilities.	❐ Develop a plan for and execute 'whole of society' research and consultation efforts to identify a wider range of housing options, support options and funding options. ❐ Prepare a report to the people of Ontario, outlining key findings, learnings and recommendations for action.
4. Cross-sector/Cross-regional Research Initiatives	The Housing Task Force recommends that the government engage in continual exploration and research to identify innovative developmental services initiatives and practices in other provinces, countries, communities and related sectors (e.g. mental health & addictions). The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, should lead this effort, in collaboration with ministries with related and relevant concerns (i.e. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance).	❐ Develop an engagement and execution plan for continual third-party research to identify innovative practices in other provinces, countries, communities and related sectors. ❐ Implement a Developmental Services 'Think Tank' tasked with the development of a DS-specific knowledge bank. ❐ Prepare a report to the people of Ontario, outlining key findings, learnings and recommendations for action.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
5. Research Initiatives Addressing 'Complex' Situations and Unsupported Individuals	The government should commit to undertaking specific exploration and research aimed at identifying issues/needs and solutions to address situations faced by people without personal networks of support, who have multiple, intersecting needs, or who are in 'complex' or precarious housing situations, including those facing homelessness.	❐ Develop a plan that builds on the learnings from the Bridges to Housing demonstration project and engages in opportunities for replication in other communities across the province. ❐ Develop and execute a plan that supports the implementation of a province-wide outreach effort to identify individuals in the shelter system and determine ways to transition them into appropriate housing with support.
6. Research Initiatives Focused on Technological Innovation	There should be further exploration and research focused on the identification of technology-based initiatives and advancements that could be utilized to address housing and residential support needs for people with developmental disabilities.	❐ Develop a plan for the implementation of research initiatives that focus on identifying and harnessing learnings about leading-edge technological initiatives including products, apps and programs for the DS community in Ontario. ❐ Identify one partnership opportunity to advance technological innovation for the DS sector.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
GATHERING LIVED EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES 7. Continuous Consultation Process	The HTF recommends the implementation and maintenance of regular, meaningful grassroots consultation efforts with non-government stakeholders (individuals, families, family networks, self-advocacy groups and other grassroots community members) and service providers, including housing providers, healthcare providers, and other service groups within the broader community: • To advance common sense recommendations, ' • To identify opportunities for government action, and • To tackle inconsistencies and barriers within current government programs. These consultation efforts should include clearly stated outcome expectations and a schedule for annual reporting of people's experiences and future actions.	❑ Develop and execute an engagement plan for regular grassroots consultations with non-government stakeholders (i.e., individuals, families, self-advocates), including a formalized structure for feedback and reporting. ❑ Identify a plan for formal opportunities for individuals, family members and advocates to be represented at Community Planning Table meetings. ❑ Identify a plan and mechanisms for connecting Service Managers and local/regional political leaders with individuals, families and family networks. ❑ Identify a plan for early engagement and regular communication initiatives with service providers (including LHINs, DSOs, agencies and others.) ❑ Implement a Red Tape Review, an online mechanism for collecting anonymous feedback, examples of policy obstructions and 'work arounds' from front line staff, at all levels of government, agencies and other service providers. ❑ Provide ongoing updates on grassroots consultations to the people of Ontario via a centralized communication hub and include policy review findings and transformation actions in a year-end Policy Review report to the Premier and the broader community.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
ENABLING ACTION *WHOLE OF GIVERNMENT* 8. Overall Funding for Housing Services and Supports	The Housing Task Force recommends adoption of an innovative two-track ten-year budget plan with appropriate funding to sustain and augment individualized housing supports for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario. The first track would address the long-neglected needs of Ontarians who have been on the wait list for housing supports for more than ten years; the second track would provide the policy and resource commitments needed to prevent the kind of expanding regional or provincial wait lists that generate crisis scenarios for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.	❒ Develop and present details for a <u>two-track ten-year plan</u> that prioritizes the needs of those who have been on the wait list as it stands in 2018-19 for more than ten years (including specific action items listed below) <u>and</u> identifies system transformation to address the needs of those who will join the wait list in the future. ❒ For Track One: ▪ Utilize DSO data to tabulate accurate wait times. ▪ Commit to housing 10% of those waiting 10 years or longer in each of the next 10 years. ▪ Within the first 3 years, support individuals with aging (70+) caregivers. ❒ For Track Two: ▪ Identify distinct, broad categories of individuals requiring support (including TAY, dual diagnosis individuals.) ▪ Ensure equitable assignment of resources for all categories.
9. Provincial Housing Innovation Fund	Provincial government action should be taken to increase MCCSS funding for innovation-driven housing initiatives, including an ongoing innovation fund available to each region, and funding provided to enable action on ideas generated by the Inter-Ministerial Housing Task Force called for in Recommendation 1.	❒ Commit $2,000,000 in annualized funding, distributed through MCCSS regions, to launch a cluster of new innovation-driven housing demonstration projects. ❒ Identify a plan showing how investments of innovation funds could initially and partially be used to fulfill objectives in both of the funding streams identified in Recommendation 8. ❒ Conduct an audit of existing proposals to fast-track implementation of this initiative.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
10. Affordable Housing Initiatives	A range of actions should be utilized expand affordable housing initiatives for adults with developmental disabilities, with emphasis on responding to opportunities identified by HTF research. Among other things, these actions would entail effective cooperation between MCCSS, MMAH, MOHLTC and local authorities (including service managers and municipal/regional councils).	❑ Identify a plan to address housing affordability by: ▪ Providing ODSP shelter amounts equal to the AMR specific to each individual's community; ▪ Implementing annual automated income verification processes for all new Affordable Housing programs; and on current and future occupants. ▪ Committing to the specific identification of people with Developmental Disabilities when referring to 'People with Disabilities' in all Affordable Housing program elements. ▪ Committing to dedicating 5% of all new and future provincial affordable housing resources to people with developmental disabilities in Ontario. ▪ Implementing a provincial audit on availability of Affordable Housing Units at the Service Manager level and reporting this data publicly. ▪ Urging the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to implement incentives for private sector development by changing the definition of Affordable Housing Rent to include only the amount received from the tenant and applying this change retroactively to those programs receiving provincial funding.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
WHOLE OF SOCIETY 11. Increasing Funding Flexibility and Supporting Individualized Funding	The HTF recommends actions to increase flexibility in utilization of Developmental Services funding, including the availability of individualized/direct funding for residential options, and encouraging the availability of a dedicated independent third-party resource to assist individuals and families in the development of an individualized, customized housing proposal/ plan for an innovative housing solution.	❐ Identify and present a transformation plan that includes a number of action items geared towards implementing better funding flexibility, opportunities for individualized planning and support for independent facilitation. These include: ▪ Providing a stream of annualized individualized/direct funding to enable, among other things, person-directed and family-driven innovative housing solutions. ▪ Supporting the creation and implementation of Microboards^{TM} and enabling the ability for families to flow support dollars directly to these entities. ▪ Providing annualized funding for Independent Facilitation across the province. ▪ Creation of specific 'Person-Directed Infrastructure' for people and families utilizing individualized/direct funding options.
EMPOWERING INDIVUDALS, FAMILIES AND NETWORKS 12. Community-Focused Communication Initiatives	The HTF recommends that MCCSS allocate funding and resources towards the implementation and ongoing maintenance of a central communications hub curated to include the most current information regarding funding and housing options including links to forms, updates, etc. This hub should be available and easily accessible to anyone with an interest in DS services and information.	❐ Develop and implement a communications and engagement plan that includes the timely launch of a two-way communications hub focused on: ▪ Increasing transparency and access to information with easy-to-understand, accessible content. ▪ Creating an open forum for families and networks to get timely and immediate responses and direction for real-time Q&A.

HTF Recommendation Stream	Overall Recommendation	Action Items for MCCSS Response
13. Adjusting the Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) Application and Support Process	The HTF recommends that the role of DSO with regard to supporting individuals in accessing appropriate housing be clarified across the province, in order to better identify appropriate and available housing options.	❒ Implement a directive for DSOs to develop standardized information sharing and recording procedures that will increase flexibility and response time to individual local housing needs including the proper tracking and reporting of requests for innovative housing solutions and IRMs or funding for supports. ❒ Develop and execute a plan to identify and address the transitional needs of children, and future requirement of services related to housing. ❒ Identify next steps on a plan for the further development of the DSO Housing Coordinator role including connecting them with municipal stakeholders, housing access systems and other community housing-finders; and a system for reporting on housing needs in local regions.

Housing Task Force Summary of Research
Environmental Scan

Housing Studies and Articles Reviewed

Title, Authors & Publication Information	Purpose of Study	Key Findings
Community Living British Columbia (June 2016). *Inclusive Housing: Advancing Good Lives in Welcoming Communities.*	To establish Community Living BC's vision statement with multiple stakeholders regarding effective and inclusive housing strategies for adults with developmental disabilities.	• Recommendations made regarding essential components of inclusive housing (eg. Choice, affordability, family involvement, etc.) • Community Living organizations must be included as advisors in policy decisions.
Diacon, D. & Vine, J. (2010). *Living a Good Life: Bringing Relationships, Community and Purpose to the Lives of Marginalised People*. Building and Social Housing Foundation, Coalville, Leiscestershire, UK.	To examine the relationship between having a place of belonging, contributing to society, and having meaningful relationships.	• Government-provided welfare systems often fail to meet the needs of those they seek to assist. Bold action is needed to ensure marginalised people obtain a home and experience a sense of belonging and purpose in life. • Social enterprise and self-help approaches are effective in building confidence and encouraging contribution.
Macnaughton. E., Nelson G., Goering, P. (2013). Bringing politics and evidence together: Policy entrepreneurship and the conception of the At Home/Chez Soi Housing First Initiative for addressing homelessness and mental illness in Canada. *Social Science & Medicine 82,* 100-107.	To study the conception and application of innovative ideas for addressing complex health and social problems, using the At Home/ Chez Soi Housing initiative in several Canadian jurisdictions as a template.	• Evidence-based policy making must take advantage of 'windows of opportunity' and should bring together the three 'streams' of problems, politics, and policy ideas.

Title, Authors & Publication Information	Purpose of Study	Key Findings
Neely-Barnes S., Marcenko, M. & Weber, L. (2008). Community-Based, Consumer-Directed Services: Differential Experiences of People with Mild and Severe Intellectual Disability. *Social Work Research 32*(1), 55-64.	To determine the relationship between choice of housing, size of residential setting, and community inclusion and different subgroups of adults with developmental disabilities.	-People with mild developmental disabilities experience greater inclusion when given more choice in housing arrangements. -Study supports trend towards smaller living arrangements and increasing choice for all adults with DD.
O'Dea, J., Copas, L. & McClanaghan, D. (June 2013). *Best Practices Reviews: Housing Choices in BC for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.* Terra Housing, McClanaghan & Associates, SPARC BC.	-To examine basic principles of housing adequacy, suitability, and affordability, as well as other, less tangible aspects of 'home' such as autonomy, identity and inclusion with BC families and other stakeholders.	Among others: creativity and innovation is essential; community and local leadership essential; quality of housing experience essential; families need connection and assistance to navigate system.
Stancic, A. et al. (2013). Implementing Housing First in Rural Areas: Pathways Vermont. *American Journal of Public Health 103* S2, S206-S209.	- To determine the applicability of Housing First strategies in rural areas with a population with complex needs. -To determine the effectiveness of technology as a support strategy for rural populations.	-Housing First strategies can be successfully implemented in rural areas. -The use of technology and telehealth can be applied in areas of dispersed housing and transportation challenges and may facilitated transitions to lower levels of care.
Woodgate, R., Morakinyo, O., & Martin, K. (2017). Interventions for youth aging out of care: A scoping review. *Children & Youth Services Review 82*, 280-300.	To examine and map available evidence on interventions available to youth.	-Youth who received housing interventions had better outcomes compared to youth who did not. -Knowledge of available research essential to informed decision-making and points to future research needs.

Environmental Scan – List of Home/Life Sharing Programs Reviewed

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
Minneapolis, MN	GLBT Host Home Program, Avenues for Homeless Youth	• The GLBT Host Home Program is an 'outside-the-system' community and volunteer-based response to youth homelessness. It offers a transformative and intimate approach to providing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) youth who are experiencing homelessness with homes and support. We have intentionally kept this program small and non-institutional, with up to 10 youth participating at a time. All youth who participate in our program are queer-identified and the majority is POC.	http://avenuesforyouth.org/glbt-host-home-program/
Lyon, France	ESDES Services Inter-Generations	• Students are selected via a personal interview to explore their motivation and know-how or experience. • Sharing and help preparing meals, being at home in the evening and week-ends, • Help for the errands, get the mail. • Share your passions and discuss together. • Share moments relaxing outings, reading, board games • Help with gardening • Introduction to Computer skills etc.	https://www.expat-agency-lyon.com/english/international-students-lyon/students-accomodation-lyon/intergeneration-home-sharing-in-lyon/
Deventer, Netherlands	Residential and Care Center Humanitas	• 30 hours of volunteer work per month, students are able to stay in vacant rooms there free of charge • Since Humanitas opened its doors to students in 2012, two more nursing homes in the Netherlands have followed suit.	http://www.humanitasdeventer.nl/
Cleveland, United States	Judson Manor	• This retirement community in Cleveland started accepting students from the Cleveland Institutes of Art and Music several years ago • To earn their keep, they participate in the musical arts committee, assist staff therapists, and volunteer at various events throughout the year. Judson also requires them to give quarterly performances at each of their three campuses.	https://www.judsonsmartliving.org/judson-manor/
Belgium	1Toit2Ages	• Program connecting seniors, students and families. • Required regular presence- and providing service (5 hrs/week max.)	http://www.1toit2ages.be/en/home.html

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
United Kingdom	Ategi Shared Lives	• Householders receive 40 hours support a month with activities such as: cooking, gardening, keeping appointment, help with electronics, shopping and companionship. Furthermore, they have the peace of mind that a trusted person is staying in their home overnight. • There is no exchange of money between Householder and Homesharer, but both parties pay a monthly fee to the charity to make the service sustainable and in order to carry our safeguarding and monitoring activities. The Householder and Homesharer will share the household bills, and each party will buy their own food.	http://www.ategi.org.uk/homeshare.html
United Kingdom	Cara Life	• Homeshare service for people living with HIV • Fee of £150 paid by the Homesharer and Householder goes towards this work and support for each match	http://caralife.com/our-services/homeshare/
United Kingdom	Draycott Homeshare	• Homesharer spends 10 hours of their time each week with the Householder and stays in the house overnight. The Homesharer is free to work or study where they wish during the week and is able to arrange time off according to the agreement.	https://www.draycottnursing.co.uk/homeshare.html
France	ensemble2generations	• Homesharing for students and seniors with three possible models- free housing or affordable housing with seniors and solitary housing with occasional service.	http://www.ensemble2generations.fr/publications.php
Ireland	National Home Sharing & Short Breaks Network	• Placements to adults with disabilities. The adult and the 'Shared Living' Family are carefully matched and the adult must choose to become part of the household. The idea is to build Inclusive Living arrangements by providing opportunities to be part of the households' social networks and by providing opportunities to develop relationships based on mutual benefit and *real* community inclusion.	http://nhsn.ie/shared-living/
New York, USA	New York Foundation for Senior Citizens	• One of the matchmates must be age 60 or older. The program also serves adult "hosts" age 55 or older, who are interested in sharing with developmentally disabled adult "guests" capable of independent living.	http://www.nyfsc.org/home-sharing/
Australia	HANZA	• The Homesharer provides approximately 10 hours per week of practical assistance such as cooking, cleaning, shopping and gardening, as well as providing company and the added security of having someone else sleeping in the home.	http://www.homeshare.org.au/about-homeshare/

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
Vermont, USA	Homeshare Now	• This service requires enrolment by both the home provider and the home seeker. Both parties will be responsible for a one-time match fee, good for the life of the match. The fee is on a sliding scale ($100-$500) and determined by your income. Payment plans welcome. • In addition to providing a mediator to our home sharing matches, Home Share Now also offers these services to landlords, property managers, housing coordinators, tenants, and others who are looking to create and maintain positive landlord and tenant relationships.	https://homesharenow.org/
Vermont, USA	HomeShare Vermont	• Housemates provide an average of 6-8 hours of service a week plus pay a small rent or help with utility bills. When we meet with you, we will discuss what a fair exchange might be for the tasks you want help with.	https://www.homesharevermont.org/
United Kingdom	HomeShare UK	• There are more than 20 different Homeshare schemes across the UK and Republic of Ireland. • The homesharer provides a minimum of 10 hours of support per week to the householder.	https://homeshareuk.org/
Michigan, USA	University of Michigan, The Housing Bureau for Seniors	• People share housing for different reasons, including: companionship, personal safety, help with chores, or to offset the rising cost of rents, taxes, utilities, and maintenance, live in a house that is now too large since their children have left home, or they may be one-parent families, single elderly persons or elderly couples.	http://www.med.umich.edu/seniors/programs/homeshare.html
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Council of Social Service	• Under a three-year trial scheme, spearheaded by the council and implemented in partnership with funders, landlords, and non- governmental organizations, and supported by the government, the Under Community Housing Movement aims to help those people by offering them a transitional home.	http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=187652&sid=11
United Kingdom	Lightshare HomeShare Services	• Depending on the agreement, a Homesharer will need to be at home 5 to 6 nights a week with a few days of leave per month. The usual minimum time for Homesharing is about 3 months but this can be discussed with the homeowner. You will need to have a DBS check before moving in with the householder.	www.lightshare.co.uk

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
Boston, USA	Nesterly	• Nesterly is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of each individual homesharing arrangement and can range from one month to up to a year or more. • Nesterly helps to make intergenerational homesharing safe, transparent, and easy by providing multi-tiered screening, customizable homesharing agreements, and a 24-hour service team.	https://www.nesterly.io/
United Kingdom	PossAbilities	• The householder doesn't charge for the room. They split the bills like gas, electric and water, they each pay a monthly service charge to PossAbilities Homeshare scheme.	https://possabilities.org.uk/secondwp/wordpress/homeshare/
Switzerland	Pro Senectute Kanton Zurich	• Assistance is arranged individually with your partner. Every living partnership is individual. If the chemistry is right and the wishes and ideas fit together well, this can be a great enrichment for both. Personal advice and medication assistanace is available.. If the living partners agree, we will create a written agreement. During the residential partnership, we are always at your side with any questions. Due to legal regulations, we can only consider students from Switzerland and the EU.	https://pszh.ch/soziales-und-beratung/wohnen/generationenuebergreifende-wohnpartnerschaften/
Sonoma County USA	SHARE California	• This program brings together seniors who have access to housing, with those that need housing. • People become isolated because of health and disabilities, loss of a spouse, living alone, unemployment, transportation issues, social adversity and just aging itself.	http://sharecalifornia.org/about-us/
Spain	Solidarios para el Desarrollo	• Through social action, communication and advocacy, we seek to break prejudices to transform our environment. In addition to accompanying people who suffer exclusion, we aim to find the causes and offer alternative proposals.	www.solidarios.org.es/que-hacemos/programa-convive/
UK	Supportmatch	• After registering with Supportmatch, the first step is a face-to-face meeting with our coordinator. Once we have identified the needs of the householder and the skills/requirements of the homesharer our coordinator aims to find the best suitable match. This takes 2 to 4 weeks. • The matches are usually 6 to 12 months, but matches can go on for a second or third year if required	http://supportmatch.co.uk/
Ireland	THE Homeshare	• Homesharers provide companionship, an overnight presence (minimum of 5 nights per week) and up to 10 hours of practical help per week	https://thehomeshare.ie

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
	Novus Homeshare	• Both the Homesharer and Householder will be contacted every month via phone by co-coordinator to discuss their on-going match. There is a home visit every 3 months that a co-coordinator will personally attend.	https://www.novus-homeshare.org.uk/
Austria	WGE! Gemeinsam Wohnen	• WGE! provides: Algorithm to find the right partner, residential agreement to regulate coexistence, accompaniment of the residential communities	www.wge-wien.org/
Tacoma, Washingtom, USA	Shared Housing Services	• Modeled after our successful Adult Homesharing program that matches low-income/homeless families and individuals with community members who have room to spare. The Youth Host Home program began in January 2013, and pairs a young person experiencing homelessness with a caring individual/family wanting to make a difference in the life of a young adult. • Home provider form accessible	http://www.sharedhousingservices.org/#Home Winona
Winona, MI	Family & Children's Center – Host Homes Program	• The host homes model is an "outside-the-system" response to youth homelessness. It provides the community an opportunity to take care of each other. • The matching process is youth-driven and the adults receive no compensation. The host home gives youth the time, space and support to address immediate needs and work towards their personal goals. • The host homes and youth are supported by a social worker at Family & Children's Center's.	https://www.fcconline.org/seeking-help/for-children/host-home-program/
Colorado, USA	Sunshine Home Share	• Responding to Denver Colorado housing crisis • Sunshine staff stays in regular contact with participants and are available if needs change or issues arise. Quarterly home visits with a sliding care management fee are required for the first year of the match. • If you are a home provider and we find you a successful match, we ask for a recommended donation to help us continue our work. This is based on a sliding scale, depending on your income.	http://sunshinehomeshare.org/
San Mateo, California USA	HIP Housing	• People who home share come from all walks of life… seniors, working persons, students, persons with disabilities, families, veterans, emancipated foster youth and others	http://hiphousing.org/programs/home-sharing-program/

Location	Organization	Details / Interesting Information	Link
Helsinki, Finland	Rudolf Seniors Home	• City-funded project aims to address youth homelessness, reduce social isolation, and encourage mixing between the generations.	https://www.citylab.com/equity/2015/12/helsinki-laajasalo-millennials-senior-home-studio-rent/418134/

Canadian Programs

Location	Organization	Details	Link
Halton, ON	Bridging the Gap	• The Host Home Program seeks providers living in the Halton Region who can provide youth 16-24 with a private/separate sleeping area for up to four months. • To become a Host Home Provider contact Kamila at Bridging the Gap to complete an application, provide a current criminal and vulnerable sector check, and to schedule an in home visit to ensure the home is appropriate. Once the application is completed, providers are informed if they are successful and are provided with a Host Home Manual which describes payment, rules and expectations. • Providers are reimbursed with a per diem of $35.00 per day/per youth in their home.	http://www.bridgingthegaphalton.ca/hosthome-p.html
Greater Vancouver and Powell River	Strive Living - Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)	• Model of care provided to individuals with complex behavioural, social, and medical needs • Individuals are placed into carefully matched family care homes and receive a minimum of 30+ hours of one-to-one support per week, as well as ongoing case management.	http://hiphousing.org/programs/home-sharing-program/
Vancouver	Empty Nest	• Curently doing significant community outreach before their intergenerational program rolls out, expected this July	https://www.cityhive.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/06-Empty-Nests-Slides.pdf

Location	Organization	Details	Link
North Vancouver	Hollyburn Family Services	• Supports individuals over 19 years of age who have developmental, social or other challenges or would like to be placed with a full-time caregiver • Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) • There are several Homeshare models such as; independent housing with supports, semi-independent living, independent living or full-time care giving.	https://support.hollyburn.ca/home_share.php
Alberta/ BC	Home Together Canada Association	• Once the questionnaire/profile is completed and submitted, it is automatically activated and you will be able to search for and read the profiles of others, and they will be able to search for and read your profile.	https://www.hometogether.ca/
Vancouver, BC	Friendly Landlord Network	• Connects youth aging out of care with landlords who understand their needs.	https://auntleahs.org/press-release-fln/
Prince George, BC	Prince George Association for Community Living	• Participants all need some level of support and supervision and may need any of the following things: Assisting with life skills, assisting with health issues, Assisting with personal care, supporting community inclusion, Supporting person to maintain, develop or strengthen their relationships with families and friends, supporting the person to be safe in their home and community	https://aimhi.ca/home-sharing/
Sechelt, BC	Sunshine Coast Community Services	• SCCSS began the Home Share program in 2012. SCCSS contracts with three providers and supports four adults with developmental disabilities.	http://www.sccss.ca/programs/child-development-youth-services/special-services/home-share

Sources:
- https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/intergenerational-retirement-home-sees-students-live-alongside-the-elderly-1.2136659
- https://www.citylab.com/equity/2015/10/the-nursing-home-thats-also-a-dorm/408424/
- http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/seniors-housing-cooperative-1.3849166

**ONTARIO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES HOUSING TASK FORCE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFORMATION**

A. Affordable Housing Annual Income Testing Simplified

1. Households occupying Affordable Housing Units must agree to file their income tax returns each year and be subject to annual internal subsidy changes based on Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) income data.

2. At initial occupancy, household income must be less than 4 x the annual rental payment.
   - Initial rents are set at 80% of the Average Market Rent (AMR).

One bedroom unit in central Toronto		
Actual Market Rent	Toronto AMR	80% of AMR
$1,900	$1,202	$962

   - In the example above, the income threshold would be $46,157:
     4 x 12 months x 962 = 46,157

3. Instead of all rents being capped at the current AMR set by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Affordable Housing Guidelines, rent for each unit would be set at the actual market rent.
   - At initial occupancy, each household would be provided an internal subsidy to reduce their rent to 80% of the City Wide CMHC Average Market Rent.
   - In the example below, an eligible household with income below $46,157 would receive an internal subsidy of $938 ($1,900 – 962)

Actual Market Rent	Rent Payable (80% AMR)	Internal Subsidy (1,900 – 962)	Income Strata
$1,900	962	938	less than 46,157 *

4. On an annual basis updated CRA income data for each household would determine the internal subsidy based on income strata.

5. Households would continue to qualify for their existing subsidy, or have their subsidy reduced (and their rent payable increased) on a graduated scale.

	Rent Payable	Internal Subsidy (assuming Actual Mkt. Rent of $1,900)	Income Strata
80% of CMHC AMR	962	938	less than 46,157 *
CMHC AMR	1,202	698	46,157 to 76,000
Market Rent	1,900	-	greater than 76,000 **

*Lower income strata based on initial income eligibility (4 x annual rent)
**Upper Income strata based on rent not exceeding 30% of income

B. Private Market Subsidies – How it Works

- Affordable Housing programs require the average of all rents to be at or below 80% of the CMHC AMR ($962 in the example above).
- A rent payable of $1,900 would likely increase the project's calculated *average weighted rent* above 80%.
- An Affordable Housing Provider would have to reduce new or existing rents to lower the average of all rents below the 80% requirements.
- In the example above, if the average of all rents were 80%, a rent payable of $1,900 would net $938 in additional rent that would have to be allocated to a subsidy pool.
- Added to an ODSP maximum shelter amount of $489, this additional subsidy would provide sufficient private funding for 2 ODSP clients to pay the affordable rent $962 for their own units.
- 938 / 2 = $469 internal subsidy for each ODSP Client
- ODSP Shelter Amt. ($489) + Internal Subsidy ($469) = $958.

C. Provincial Affordable Housing Program Reform

Affordable Housing Rent is defined as the amount of money received by the landlord from:

1. The tenant; and
2. Any funds paid on behalf of the tenant (e.g. rental subsidies)

Example of an ODSP tenant with a subsidy in a one bedroom with rent set at $1,000:

Amount paid by tenant (ODSP Shelter Amount)	489
Subsidy amount	511
Total Rent Receivable	1,000

Affordable Housing Programs are fairly simple:
- The provincial and municipal governments 'buy' affordability from private sector developers for a period of time (typically 20 years).
- In exchange, the developers/landlords must lower their rents to an 'affordable' level.
- This 'affordable level' is measured in two ways:
  - No individual rent can exceed 100% of the Average Market Rent (set by CMHC); and
  - The average of all the rents in the project cannot exceed 80% of the CMHC rent for all units.
  -

Example of a 10 unit project, all 1 bedrooms, with an AMR of $1,000:

Units	AMR	Rent	Rental Revenue	% of AMR
10	1,000	800	8,000	80%

Maximum Total Rent for this project is $10,000 ($1,000 (AMR) x 10 units).
Maximum Affordable Rent is $8,000 (80% of the Maximum Rent).
If every rent were set at 80% of the AMR ($1,000), every unit would rent at $800.
Therefore, $800 x 10 units = $8,000 (**Maximum Affordable Rent**).

However not all units have to be set exactly at 80% of AMR.

Units	Rent (Paid by Tenant)	Subsidy	Affordable Rental Revenue	Actual Rental Revenue	Affordable Rent as % of AMR
2	600		1,200	1,200	60%
1	1,000		1,000	1,000	100%
1	489	511	1,000	1,000	100%
6	800		4,800	4,800	80%
10			**8,000**	**8,000**	**80%**

In the example above, there is range of Affordability as measured against the AMR. **However, the true measure of affordability is not what the landlord receives for the unit, but what the tenant pays relative to the AMR (Affordable Maximum Rent).**

If the definition of **Affordable Housing Rent** were changed to reflect only what the tenant pays, the amount of Affordable Rent reported by landlord would be reduced (even though the actual rental revenue stays the same).

Units	Rent (Paid by Tenant)	Subsidy	Affordable Rental Revenue (does not include subsidy)	Actual Rental Revenue (includes subsidy)	Affordable Rent as % of AMR
2	600		1,200	1,200	60%
1	1,000		1,000	1,000	100%
1	489	511	489	1,000	49%
6	800		4,800	4,800	80%
10			**7,489**	**8,000**	**75%**

Because Private Sector Developers work to maximize their revenue, housing a tenant receiving ODSP with a rent subsidy under the new definition of **Affordable Housing Rent,** would provide the landlord with 'room' to increase other rents and correspondingly increase their **Actual Rental Revenue**.

Units	Rent (Paid by Tenant)	Subsidy	Affordable Rental Revenue (does not include subsidy)	Actual Rental Revenue (includes subsidy)	Affordable Rent as % of AMR
2	600		1,200	1,200	60%
1	1,000		1,000	1,000	100%
1	489	511	489	1,000	49%
5	900		4,500	4,500	90%
1	811		811	811	81%
10			**8,000**	**8,511**	**80%**

In the example above:
- Housing 1 ODSP tenant with a subsidy has increased the landlord's revenue by $6,132 ($511 x 12 months)
- This increased revenue is not provided by government, but comes from private individuals who are able to pay greater than 80% of AMR, but not greater than the limit of 100% AMR.
- Early Affordable Housing programs allowed municipalities to exclude subsidy amounts in the calculation of Affordable Rent.

HTF Affordable Housing Information

- In 2014, the province clarified the definition to include both the amount received from the tenant and any subsidy amount paid on behalf of the tenant.
- Without this privately funded incentive, the private sector demand for referral agreements with the DS/ODSP sector completely disappeared.
- **Without any new public investments**, this change in the definition of **Affordable Housing Rent** would create a powerful incentive for private sector landlords to house Ontarians with a developmental disability.

Fostering an Inclusive Community –
Creating Community in a Toronto Community Housing Seniors Project[1]

In 2014, an opportunity to access 13 one-bedroom apartments for individuals supported by Community Living Toronto arose in a new Toronto Community Housing development in the West Don Lands neighbourhood. Community Living Toronto had already connected with Toronto Community Housing in 2012, to support people with a developmental disability moving to a development at Dan Leckie Way. Six months after the initial date of occupancy, thirteen individuals moved into their new apartments, with the support of direct support staff, from Community Living Toronto.

Since other tenants had known each other for months, there were many questions from existing tenants about their new neighbours. In time, one tenant wrote a letter encouraging all tenants to welcome to their new neighbours.

This letter set a new tone. Concerns about the presence of tenants' support staff became reassuring. The individual personalities of the new tenants came to the forefront. This enabled direct support staff to recede into the background. Shortly thereafter, the newest residents were invited to their first building potluck. The new residents prepared treats to share with their new neighbours. This potluck was the turning point. Relationships between tenants began to form and the sense of community broadened.

Over time, relationships with neighbours and the surrounding community in the apartment building have continued to grow. Most mornings, several tenants sit in the lobby and chat while waiting for rides. Tenants know each other's names; conversation comes naturally. A few neighbours go out for coffee at the local Tim Horton's.

Many of the tenants check in on each other. When one individual under-went knee surgery, several neighbours checked in on her to offer help. During gardening season, several tenants made a point to save a plot in the community garden so the newer residents could participate in gardening.

The multi-purpose room is used in the building to host holiday parties, birthday celebrations and potluck dinners, and hospitality is extended to everyone in the building. Weekly senior's programs for exercise, games and conversation add to the sense of community at West Don Lands.

Sadly, in 2016, the West Don Lands community lost a friend; one of the individuals supported by staff from Community Living Toronto passed away. Though he'd only lived there a short time, his loss was felt throughout the building. His friends and neighbours hosted a Celebration of Life in his honour and invited the entire community. The room was filled to capacity with the outpouring of support from neighbours.

Supportive neighbours ask well-intentioned questions out of comradery and neighbourly interest for one another. Friendships have formed and flourished.

---

[1] Excerpted from an article by James Janeiro, Director l Community Engagement and Policy, Community Living Toronto

**The Developmental Services Housing Task Force
"Bricks and Mortar" Survey**

About the Survey:

- The Developmental Services Housing Task Force (HTF) is the first ever cross-sector Task Force addressing housing issues specifically for adults with developmental disabilities.
- The HTF has established several sub-committees, including the "Bricks and Mortar" sub-committee.
- The Bricks and Mortar sub-committee identified a need to better understand the various innovative housing approaches being implemented across the province for adults with developmental disabilities. Consequently, in September 2016, a survey was developed and issued to developmental services stakeholders (including umbrella organizations and family networks) to obtain information about creative housing approaches within Ontario. The deadline for submissions was November 7, 2016.
- The survey consisted of six sections, totalling 32 questions. Respondents were asked to describe:
    1. **Introductory section** – their housing approach and associated benefits/challenges.
    2. **Housing Characteristics** – the location, design, type, and costs associated with their housing approach.
    3. **Neighbourhood Characteristics** – the community where their housing is located as well as how they determine appropriate sites.
    4. **Individual Characteristics** – the population accessing their housing approach.
    5. **Support Characteristics** – their approaches of support, including support workers, the use of technology and/or assistive devices, associated costs/funding for support, and existing policy/systemic barriers.
    6. **Other Information** – online resources with more information regarding their housing approach as well as their contact information (optional).
- MCSS was provided with the survey results and database. This note provides a summary and analysis of the information obtained from respondents, highlighting key themes and trends regarding the sections summarized above.

Survey Results

Number of Respondents with "usable" data:	33
Number of Respondents with "unusable" data:	33
Total number of Respondents:	66

- Amongst the 66 respondents, 33 responded with 'project proposals' or housing arrangements that have not yet been developed or implemented (i.e. in a 'planning' phase).
- The purpose of the survey was to collect information regarding *existing* housing approaches. Hence, their data was deemed invalid and their responses are not incorporated in the following data analysis.
- Of note, despite being considered invalid for the purposes of this report, the content of these responses were reviewed. The following example represents a promising idea pulled from the invalid data.

Invalid Data: Example of an Innovative/Creative Idea
- Recruiting Support Workers: Partner with relevant college programs (e.g., Developmental Services Work, Social Work, Personal Support Worker, etc.) and seek students who may be interested in residing in the housing approach. Students gain experience and free accommodation in exchange for assisting with life skills training, mentoring and volunteering.
  - The Housing Alternatives Network Directive (H.A.N.D.) in Halton Region has been working towards implementing this support approach.

Data Analysis

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

Who?

We obtained *15* responses from individuals writing on behalf of a family member with a developmental disability, *13* responses from agencies or organizations serving adults with developmental disabilities, *1* response from a non-profit housing corporation, and *4* responses from "partnerships" between developmental services agencies (e.g., Lambton County Developmental Services, Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills) and non-profit housing organizations (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, OCISO Non-Profit Housing Corporation etc.).

Where?

We obtained responses from participants whose housing approaches are being implemented in the locations noted in the table below (10 did not specify their location). Note that the majority of responses were obtained from the Eastern and Western Regions.

Region:	North Region	East Region	Central Region	West Region	Toronto Region	Unspecified
	- Nipissing District - City of Thunder Bay	- City of Ottawa (4 X) - City of Peterborough - Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, County of Renfrew - United Counties of Leeds & Grenville	- Regional Municipality of Peel - County of Wellington	- City of London (2X) - Town of Grimsby, Regional Municipality of Niagara (2 X) - City of Sarnia, County of Lambton - Town of Amherstburg, County of Essex - Middlesex County - Municipality of Chatham-Kent	- City of Toronto (3 X) - Scarborough	
Total # of Responses:	**2**	**7**	**2**	**8**	**4**	**10**

The submission received from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, noted the following advantages associated with operating "group houses" in a smaller town; increased opportunities for residents to obtain local employment, lower cost of housing, and that the slower pace improved individuals' "anxiety." The agency implemented a **"big brother/big sister approach",** whereby individuals served were paired with community members. Conversely, however, the agency noted challenges obtaining adequate staffing and resources.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS:

Housing Approaches:
- The following table summarizes the various types of housing approaches described by respondents in their submissions.
- Note that some respondents described the use of multiple housing approaches in their submissions.

Housing Approach:	Total # of Respondents:
1) Individual's Own Residence	12
2) Family Residence	6
3) [Agency Owned/Operated] Apartment Unit(s)	4
4) [Agency Owned/Operated] House/Townhouse	4
5) [Agency Owned/Operated] Multi-Dwelling Unit	4
6) Group Home Approach	3
7) Regional Housing Subsidy Program	1
8) Housing Partnership	4
Unspecified	4

1. Owned or Rented Dwelling:
The majority of submissions reflected housing approaches whereby *the individual either owned or rented their own dwelling*. In some cases, the individual's family was supporting them with rental payments or had purchased the residence on their behalf, and/or the individual was accessing subsidized housing. Level/intensity of residential support varied across submissions dependent on the individual's needs.

Benefits identified with this housing approach included:
- Greater flexibility and self-determination – individuals have the ability to choose where they would like to live, with whom, and generally have more control over the housing process.
- All associated costs are "accountable and visible."

- Greater opportunities for individualized housing arrangements.
- Increased community inclusion and participation.
- Fosters and promotes independence.
- If individual is renting/purchasing alongside others, it is typically a smaller group (e.g. 3-4 residents max.) and roommates "support" one another.

Challenges identified with this housing approach included:
- Obtaining adequate/sufficient residential support and financing costly care.
- Obtaining affordable/subsidized housing, and managing housing costs (e.g., mortgage, maintenance, renovation – including modifications to render home accessible).
- Ensuring that housing adequately addresses the individual's identified needs and identifying/mitigating safety risks.
- Finding programs that can teach individuals the skills required to successfully transition/live in independent housing arrangements.

2. Family Residence:
The second most common housing approach involved individuals with a developmental disability living in their *family residence*. Level/intensity of residential support varied across submissions dependent on the individual's needs.

Benefits identified with this housing approach included:
- Supportive family environment.
- Greater freedom/control for individuals compared to agency-based housing approaches.
- Provides affordable housing and some daily living costs are shared with family (e.g., groceries, utilities etc.).
- May promote/foster individual's independence and community participation.

Challenges identified with this housing approach included:
- Individuals may experience isolation from peers.
- May limit family and individual's independence.
- Parents age and may no longer be able to provide support.
- Family residence may not have capacity to accommodate live-in support workers.
- Challenges obtaining consistent support.

Innovative Housing Approach: Family Residence
- One respondent described how they built a separate, self-contained unit within their family home for their adult son with a developmental disability.
- For the individual and their family, this represented a "transitional" solution that was economical, and simultaneously promoted independent living, control, and ownership for their son while having family support nearby.
- Conversely, some challenges identified with this housing approach are that by-laws may impose restrictions on residential construction, accommodating live-in support workers may be challenging, and it may limit the individual and family's independence.

Other Approaches:

The remainder of submissions received were relatively evenly split among the following housing approaches. Level/intensity of residential support varied across submissions dependent on the individual's needs.

3. Agency Owned/Operated: Apartment Unit(s)

Benefits Identified:
- Promotes independence and heightens self-esteem.
- Cost effective compared to operating a group home (e.g., greater property taxes, up keep costs, and larger utility bills).
- Community-based and encourages participation/inclusion.

Challenges Identified:
- Educating the "general public" who reside in the building about individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Overcoming stereotypes of "incapacity" – shifting family members', workers', and the developmental services system's mind frame towards greater recognition of individuals' ability to live independently.

4. Agency Owned/Operated: House/Townhouse

Benefits Identified:
- Greater community inclusion and participation.

5. Agency Owned/Operated: Multi-Dwelling Unit

Benefits Identified:
- "Reduces the "group" mentality to housing for people with developmental disabilities."
- Allows for greater "individualized" housing.

6. Group Home Approach

Challenges Identified:
- Insufficient person-centred support addressing each individual's identified needs.

7. Regional Housing Subsidy Program

Benefits Identified:
- Program allows for fixed costs that are affordable to individuals on ODSP.
- Increased flexibility and individualization – allows individuals to decide where they would like to live, and the capacity to move if their housing no longer suits their needs.
- Cost-Effective – "no capital required for the Region to participate."

8. Housing Partnerships

Benefits identified:
- Collaboration with non-traditional partner(s); builds community capacity.

Challenges identified:
- Negotiating the partnership agreements.
- Moving away from traditional service delivery approaches towards non-traditional community partnerships.
- Working with another agency and negotiating competing priorities.

COSTS THAT EXCEED ODSP:
Across all housing approaches, per individual monthly shelter-related carrying costs ranged from $200.00 - $1400.00.
If monthly shelter-related carrying costs exceeded the amount allotted by ODSP, the following methods were utilized by individuals/agencies to cover costs:
- Additional operating funds
- Passport funding
- Rental income (obtained from other tenants)
- Rental supplements (e.g., obtained through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program)
- Family financial support

Innovative Housing Approach: Community Partnership

- In January 2015, Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills (OCL) and OCISO Non-Profit Housing Corporation (OCISO NPH) developed a unique partnership to meet community needs.
- OCISO NPH is an organization that provides safe, affordable housing in the Ottawa area, and OCL supports adults with developmental disabilities.
- In 2013, OCISO NPH was provided a grant by the City of Ottawa to build a new apartment building with one requirement – that they provide some tenants in the building with residential supports. Meanwhile, OCL was in the midst of expanding their Supported Independent Living program, and required more space to operate.
- With one organization being a housing provider, and the other specializing in residential supports, the two built upon one another's strengths and developed a mutually beneficial partnership.
- Today, OCL supports 10 individuals living independently in the OCISO NPH apartment building, in addition to another eight individuals who transitioned from OCL group homes to a new group support approach within the building. Staffing is based on a 24-hour support approach, and units are equipped with modern technology to facilitate independent living.

To Learn More About this Ottawa Area Partnership:

- [Innovative Housing & Support Partnership has High Impact Results Meeting Community Needs](#)
- [OCISO Non-Profit Housing Corporation](#)
- [Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills](#)

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTERISTICS:

Respondents' housing approaches were located in a broad range of neighbourhoods, including; small towns and large cities, urban and suburban areas, residential and central downtown, friendly, accepting, family oriented neighbourhoods and lower income, "high crime" neighbourhoods.

Common factors considered when determining appropriate housing sites/communities included:

- Affordability
- Availability
- Accessibility (e.g., proximity to services, employment, amenities, transit, family etc.)
- Safety
- The individual and their family's personal preference/choice
- The individual's determined needs
- Neighbourhood familiarity
- Environments that provide opportunities for active involvement and community engagement

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS:
The majority of respondents did not identify any exclusionary criteria, serving a broad range of individuals with various developmental disabilities. Three respondents noted that housing was not wheelchair accessible and/or that housing was inappropriate for individuals with limited mobility. Three respondents noted that their housing approach was intended for individuals capable of living independently and/or with minimal support.

SUPPORT CHARACTERISTICS:
Support Approaches:
Many respondents noted commonalities between their housing and support approaches, wherein both services utilized person-centred, individualized, inclusive, and community-based approaches that prioritize personal choice and preference. One respondent noted that their agency uses a "teaching approach," and another noted a "harm reduction" approach of support.

Innovative Housing Approach: Teaching Approach of Support
- One respondent described how their housing approach in Leeds & Grenville adopts a "teaching approach" of support.
- Individuals reside in a 'teaching apartment' for 6 – 12 months where they are taught social, home living, mobility and travel, budgeting, personal safety, and other skills. Individuals are assessed on an ongoing basis, and staffing support is reduced as the individual's abilities and confidence increases. When ready, the individual "graduates" to their own independent apartment, where support is provided on an as-needed basis.
- Benefits associated with this approach include increased self-esteem for individuals involved, self-advocacy, and managed risk. Challenges identified include family members interfering with the process, and individuals not feeling that the 'teaching apartment' is their "home."

Support Workers:
Support workers are recruited using a variety of methods, including: internal/external job postings, relevant college programs, agencies/social service organizations, respite services, personal networks/ 'word-of-mouth', job fairs, and advertising.
The majority of respondents noted that the individuals served were not independently responsible for "hiring"/"firing" staff, but that they are involved in the process, and that their input and feedback is strongly considered when determining their support worker(s).

Technology:
Amongst the 33 respondents, **13** answered "Yes" to the use of technology or assistive devices as part of their support approaches, **5** answered "No," and there were **15** non-responses. Technology/assistive devices used included; tablets, cell phones, smart watches/medical alert bracelets, monitoring systems, software applications (e.g., expenditure tracking, alarms, weather, contacts, TYZE Connecting Care, Augmentative and Alternative Communication), and medical devices (e.g., enteral feeding pump, lighting/safety equipment for deaf people).

Individuals with developmental disabilities, their caregivers, and support staff were described as using the various technologies, and associated benefits included:
- Enhanced communication
- Reduced staffing costs
- Greater independence and control

Challenges associated with the use of technology/assistive devices included:
- Cost of technology
- Matching technology to support needs
- Risk mitigation

Respondents learned about and accessed their various technologies/assistive devices through research, 'word of mouth' (e.g., parent groups, other developmental services partners), Non-profit organizations, and partnerships with technological experts.
Associated costs varied dependent on the individual's particular needs and the type of technology/assistive device used. Respondents covered costs via different means, some having obtained donations and/or government grants, and others having paid 'out-of-pocket.'

Innovative Housing Approach: Smart Support-Technology Enabled Services

In May 2016, the Ministry of Community and Social Services approved $278,800 in funding over two years to *Community Living Essex County* (in partnership with *On Site Services, Imagine! Smart Home,* and the *University of Windsor)* to develop living spaces with innovative, technology-enabled services for people with developmental disabilities.

- The project is based on a successful pilot conducted in Boulder, Colorado.
- Thus far, the project has equipped two housing units. The technology enabled services are customized to each individual's lifestyle, personal choice/preference, determined needs, and available resources.

To Learn More about Essex County's 'Smart Home' Approach:

- [Community Living Essex Smart Support Technology](#)
- [On Site Services - Smart Support Technology Enabled Services](#)
- [Imagine! SmartHomes](#)

Funding:
Amongst those respondents who noted that their individuals being served received direct funding for support (13 – Yes; 5 – No; 15 - Non Response), funding was obtained via the following methods; Passport program, Urgent Response process, ODSP, Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) support, and [LIGHTS](#) funding.
Three respondents who replied with "Yes" noted that although some individuals accessing their service receive direct funding, many service recipients are base/core funded.
Respondents generally noted that funding for support is inadequate.

Policy/Systemic Barriers:

Respondents noted the following policy or systemic barriers to changing support approaches:

- Inadequate funding for housing/support
- Limited alternative housing/support approaches available
- Insufficient direct/individualized funding prevents service-users from controlling their support/housing experience
- Overcoming/challenging the 'status quo'

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES HOUSING TASK FORCE
SUMMARY – TECHNOLOGY SURVEY
On the use of assistive technologies in support of adults with a developmental disability

PURPOSE/CONTEXT:
The DS Housing Task Force is interested in collecting information about the use of assistive technologies (see definition below) to increase, maintain and improve independence and quality of life of persons with a developmental disability to live, work and participate in their community. We would like to collect this information and put it in a format that may be shared with others so that everyone will benefit. Would you please take the time to share your knowledge and experiences with us.

This survey was posted to Facebook and remained opened for responses from Wednesday February 28, 2018 until Friday, March 23, 2018.

FACEBOOK POST:

The Housing Task Force Committee is collecting information about the use of assistive technologies to increase, maintain and improve independence and quality of life of persons with a developmental disability to live, work and participate in their community.
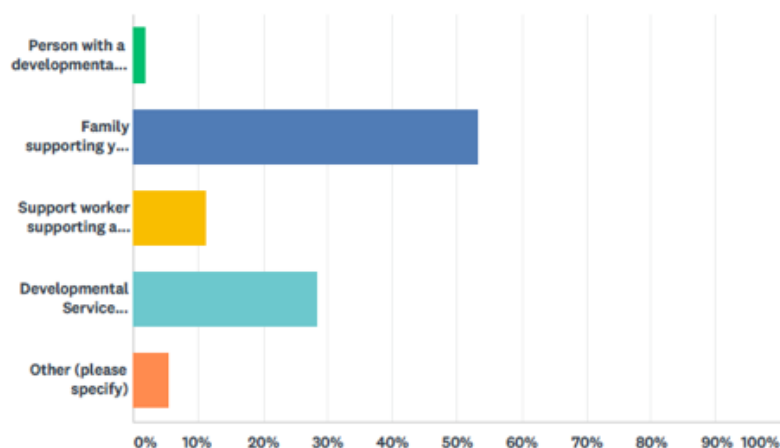
Could you please take a moment to complete this short survey *before March 23rd* https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HTtechsurvey

Q1. It is helpful to know who is filling out the survey.
BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS:

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Person with a developmental disability	1.83%	2
Family supporting your family member	53.21%	58
Support worker supporting an individual	11.01%	12
Developmental Service Professional	28.44%	31
Other (please specify)	5.50%	6
TOTAL		109

Q2. What technology devices, apps or programs do you use at home, at work and in your community to make you more independent?
The vast majority of the 107 respondents are using smartphones and ipads (often both) for a variety of functions. Only 8 respondents replied with 'none'. Mobile technology is the clear preference.

48 smartphone/android/iphone
47 ipads/tablets
35 desktop computer/laptop

A variety of Apps are being used for many different purposes, including:

- GPS trackers for individuals in the community
- Workout plans
- Reminder Rosie
- Speech to text
- Text to speech (proloquo)
- Zoomtext
- Skype / Facetime / Messenger
- Snapchat
- Transit app
- Worxhub
- Calorie counters
- Mobile banking
- MagnusCards
- Oneder
- Wheel Trans online shared booking calendar
- Talking clocks and watches
- Smart home monitoring to note visitors at entryway of home

One respondent explained that although her family member cannot read or write, she knows how to click on icons to connect with family and friends via Messenger. Also - and very importantly - she has learned how to plug in devices for recharging when they run down.

Several people mentioned manual or electronic assistive devices, including: adapted vehicles, an automated medication dispenser, manual or power wheelchair, hand railings for a stairwell, and keypad door locks and finger print door locks.

Q3. Please list all the technology you use including Name and Brand and answer the following two questions:
Out of 95 respondents, Apple products were mentioned 64 times. Many people own multiple devices, for example an iphone and ipad. Samsung was the runner up. Other brands mentioned included Sony, HP, Acer, Dell, Toshiba and Motorola. Bucking the tech trend, one individual cited 'handcrafted picture books and sign language books.'

Q4. How does this technology help you?
The common thread among the 99 responses focused mainly on *communication* in multiple forms, which examples included:
- Daily communication among family members: staying in touch during workday, group texts, check-ins for calming etc.
- Organization and time management: reminders, lists, meetings, medical appointments, shopping, medications, etc.
- Safety and emergencies: traveling safely, GPS, remote security such as giving access to a support worker
- Social connections: arranging in-person meetings, chatting online, engaging with friends & family, sending texts and pics)
- Entertainment: music, videos and games
- Education: teaching, learning, homework help, literacy, brain games, life skills
- Work functions: breaking tasks down into steps with reminders
- Budgeting and finance tracking
- Research and information for family member or self
- Wellbeing: meditation and mindfulness, fitness
- Tools for professional support workers: entering case notes, supporting fellow support workers

"He can communicate with support staff when he wants to, and they are not always interrupting him or present in his living area."

"I can safely travel independently to my day program and social events, and in emergencies I can call for help…"

"My son is better able to communicate over the phone vs. face to face."

Q5 a. Does this product meet your needs?
Out of 95 responses, just under half asserted that *yes,* their technology met their needs. However, many respondents qualified their *yes* with *but, mostly* or *for now*. Several people mentioned concerns regarding affordability as well as wanting simpler functionality or ease-of-use, in reference to the second question below:

Q5 b. What would be better?

"A free license for [Read and Write](#) would be good, or access to assistive technology after the school years."

"I need a product like a cell phone with user-friendly key pad and easy to understand apps."

"This technology works for now, however I work with a group of 10 people, and because of their [limited] level of understanding, I am not sure if a tablet will work with all of them."

"It would be better if there were more free apps for communication as people on ODSP have limited funding."

"What would be better is a "simple" mode of use – upgrading to higher IOS hides [adversely affects] functionality the person was used to."

"I would like cheaper or subsidized products and service fees."

Some respondents, while noting the benefits of digital technology, stressed value of maintaining human interaction, and opportunities for in-person learning:

"I would like our daughter to be physically connected to people more, rather than by technology. She would prefer that too. But it is comforting for her, and for us her family, to be able to see her when we speak with her, so we can pick up on how she is really feeling, her anxiety level, etc."

"Somewhat. Not sure if I prefer using a device or app vs. someone merely showing me the steps and learning by doing."

Q6. Do you have any low-tech methods to promote independence? Examples: installing additional safety controls on a stove, alarm systems, phone checks, and neighbour check-ins?

Out of 97 responses, almost one third replied with a simple ***no*** – a clear indication of the prevalence or popularity of digital technology now being used by families and caregivers to support people with a disability to live an independent life.

Taking into account the previous question, it is also clear the majority of respondents are using a combination of high *and* low-tech methods and tools to ensure the safety and independence of their loved one. Many respondents mentioned good neighbours who are available for check-ins, emergencies and who are aware of routines.

Low-tech methods included:
- Removal of stove nobs when not in use
- Colour-coded stickers on stove dials to teach cooking temperatures for those without numeric literacy
- Picture or visual grocery lists to take along when food shopping
- Good neighbours acting as a social safety net; caring community members mindful of routines
- Alarms or monitors to call for support staff at any time
- Induction stove tops to prevent burns

- Phone-check-ins
- Safety charts for water temperatures
- Routines written on paper charts or reminder lists at front door ("purse, keys, phone, lock door")
- Keys and wallet attached to clothes
- Introductions to neighbours, check-ins, short visits
- Magnifying glass
- Monthly fire safety training (and smoke detectors)
- A talking clock
- Debit card with small amounts from ODSP transferred into it so person is not cheated using cash
- Developed relationships with taxi company – drivers know to wait or call dispatch if issue arises

Combination methods included:
- Preprogrammed phone numbers so person can press a button with a picture to find the person they need
- Direct rent payment from ODSP
- A "Keeper of the Knowledge" blog "so that past and ongoing knowledge is accessible by supporters, family and friends – a communication tool for everyone to know what is happening in her life."

Q7. Is there anything else you would like to share or recommend regarding technology, devices, programs or apps?
Out of 80 responses, just under one quarter replied **no**. Once again, many respondents mentioned prohibitive costs involved for digital tech (for devices, programs and apps) for individuals and families on limited incomes.

Over and over, the many excellent benefits of technology to enhance the safety, independence and wellbeing of family members was emphasized as critically important. At the same time, others agree, "Technology cannot replace caring human interaction".

Recommendations included:
- Reliability of technology is key. Backup measures need to be in place when there are problems with technology – this needs to be factored in.
- More supported persons should have tablets with various apps for communication and strategies that are designed to accommodate each person's specific needs and goals.
- For people with a disability, give them a financial break on technology so they can access cutting edge tech to enhance and promote independence.
- Would like an app where a person can go around in the community and if there is a problem, go to app for help, ie. a nearby Block Parent.
- Have apps that communicate via pictures for the individuals that we support via ipad/tablet.
- MCCSS should fund tech innovation at conferences; cell phones should be subsidized
  > *"I wish ODSP could be used for the cost of cell phone and Internet service, as these provide main methods of communication, independence and safety."*

- Support workers could be involved in programming and connecting devices for apps like Alexa, or Proloquo2go, which allow people to use voice commands for routine reminders etc.
- For kids with autism it is hard to make and maintain friendships … my son plays games with kids all over the world on his ipad which makes him feel less alone ad has greatly improved his mental health.

> *"Please share with everyone your findings, we are always looking for more options to increase independence and safety".*

REFERENCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AND POVERTY

I.   Government Data on people with disabilities and poverty

Title, Authors & Publication Information	Details/Key Findings	Link
Government of Canada (2010). *Federal poverty reduction plan: Working in partnership toward reducing poverty in Canada. Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.*	The data in this report strongly supports the link between disability and poverty in Canada. It contains this quote from Anna Macquarrie of the Canadian Association for Community Living: "Just over 75% of adult Canadians with intellectual disabilities who do not live with their families are living in poverty" (p. 33).	http://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/403/HUMA/Reports/RP4770921/humarp07/humarp07-e.pdf
Statistics Canada, From the Canadian Survey on Disability (2012): *A profile of persons with disabilities among Canadians aged 15 years or older, 2012.*	In Section 5, under income, the "median total income of persons with disabilities [is] $10,000 less than the median for those without disabilities". This data is not aggregated by disability (i.e. does not distinguish intellectual disability from other forms of impairment). In 2010, the self-reported median total income of 15- to 64-year-olds with disabilities was $20,420, compared with $31,160 for those without disabilities. For seniors (65 years or older), the corresponding amounts were $21,450 and $24,920. The less pronounced difference at age 65 years or older is likely due to income support programs aimed at seniors, as well as many seniors having developed a disability recently, which had less impact on their pension contributions and savings. The self-reported median total income of 15- to 24-year-olds with disabilities was $4,740, which was 69% of that reported by their contemporaries without disabilities ($6,870). At ages 25 to 64 years, the gap widened. Persons with disabilities aged 25 to 44 years reported $21,480—57% of the amount reported by those without disabilities ($37,560); at ages 45 to 64 years, the median for persons with disabilities was $22,890—56% of the median for those without disabilities ($40,910). Among seniors, amounts were lower, but the gap was narrower. The median total income of persons aged 65 to 74 years with disabilities was $22,290, which was 87% of what 65- to 74-year-olds without disabilities reported ($26,170). The difference almost disappeared at age 75 years or older: $21,070 versus $22,920. Regardless of age, men with disabilities reported significantly higher median total incomes than did women with disabilities. Among 15- to 64-year-olds with disabilities, self-reported median total income decreased sharply at higher levels of global severity (Chart 11). The median for persons with mild disabilities was $29,950; the median were $21,620 for those with moderate disabilities, $16,810 for those with severe disabilities, and $14,390 for those with very severe disabilities.	https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2015001-eng.htm

II. Response from CACL on most recent Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy:

Title, Authors & Publication Information	Details/Key Findings	Link
PRESS RELEASE: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy Promising for People with an Intellectual Disability.	There are publications by CACL on poverty among adults with an intellectual disability. The latest investigates the recent release of the federal Poverty Reduction Strategy. In this report, CACL president joy Bacon, states: "Persistent poverty remains, and it can only be addressed by both income and disability-related supports."	http://cacl.ca/2018/09/12/press-release-canadas-first-poverty-reduction-strategy-promising-for-people-with-an-intellectual-disability/

III. Academic references:

Title, Authors & Publication Information	Details/Key Findings
Jongbloed, L. (2003). Disability Policy in Canada. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies 13* (4), 203-211, 203-209.	This paper provides a very good overview of disability policy and its development in Canada; it does not specifically mention intellectual disability, but does include it under the larger category of 'disability', and makes the point that people with disabilities in Canada, for the most part, live in poverty. Another limitation is that it is dated.
Johner, R. (September 2013). Disability and Poverty: Stories that Resist Attitudinal Barriers to Inclusion. *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies 2*(3) 30-54.	This is a qualitative study; however, it provides current statistical data on rates of poverty for people with disabilities in Canada, including people with intellectual disabilities.
Stienstra, D. (2012). *About Canada: Disability Rights.* Halifax, NS: Fernwood.	This book makes the case that the majority of people with disabilities in Canada live in poverty.

.

ONTARIO INDEPENDENT FACILITATION NETWORK
CITIZEN-FOCUSED FRAMEWORK

Independent Facilitation is a support that makes it easier for people to take on their role as citizens, to be included and belong, and contribute to the communities where they live. However, the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network (OIFN) believes that Independent Facilitation alone does not afford people and families the power, choice, and control over their services and supports, but Independent Facilitation contributes to a broader framework designed to support people to live as citizens with all of the rights and responsibilities this involves.

In the Fall of 2017, the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network adopted the language of a *Citizen-focused Framework* to describe a new framework that is needed in the infrastructure supports of the Developmental Service system, in order to support citizenship and social inclusion. This Citizen-focused Framework is comprised of a number of separate functions that work together services to support people to direct their unique vision for their lives, goals, and needs:

- Direct Individualized Funding
- Affordable and accessible housing resources
- Staffing resources
- Administrative resources
- Inclusive lifelong education and learning opportunities
- Independent Facilitation (help figuring things out)

Citizenship is really the key to social inclusion. The Citizen-focused Framework offers citizens experiencing a developmental disability an opportunity to access resources around employment and volunteerism, identify their key contributions and exchange these in community, find cost effective and personalized solutions around housing, support, and transportation, and access continued opportunities to learn and grow. This framework outlines the foundation for a good life as a contributing citizen while recognizing the inherent challenges and roadblocks that people with developmental disabilities, along with their family members, face.

This framework draws on the foundational work of provincial grassroots organizations, including:

- Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO)
- Family Alliance Ontario (FAO)
- People First of Ontario (PFO)
- Special Services at Home/Passport Provincial Coalition (SSAH-PC)

Foundational References:

- Working Toward an Empowerment Model, 2004
- IFCO Ad Hoc Paper on Direct Funding, 2010
- Common Vision for Real Transformation: Part One and Part Two

A Framework To Support Citizens

A 'separation of functions' is valuable for maximizing the control that people have to live as citizens.

ontario independent facilitation network oifn.ca

- recruiting
- interviewing
- selecting
- training
- scheduling
- managing

Staffing Resources

$ **Direct Individualized Funding**

LEARNING EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Inclusive Lifelong Education and Learning Opportunities

Citizens
- Rights
- Freedoms
- Opportunities
- Responsibility
- Contributing
- Belonging

Assistance in figuring things out

- relationships
- support networks
- community connections
- information/ resources
- planning

Independent Facilitation

- affordable
- accessible
- ownership options

Housing Resources

Administrative Resources

- simple plain language requirements
- accounting and payroll support

Developed from:
"A Person Directed Infrastructure: Creating Structures and Resources that Support Citizenship"

written by
David Hasbury
(Neighbours International)
for the Ontario Independent Facilitation Network (OIFN).

Foundational references:
- "Working Toward an Empowerment Model, 2004"
- "IFCO Ad Hoc Paper on Direct Funding, 2011"
- "Common Vision for Real Transformation Parts One and Two"
  Co-authored by:
  - Individualized Funding Coalition for Ontario (IFCO),
  - Family Alliance Ontario,
  - People First of Ontario,
  - Special Services at Home Provincial Coalition (June and July 2005).