



Gearing Up For Your Transitions

Housing Options

Adapted with permission from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Specialized Care

Explore your options so you and your family/guardian can choose programs and services that best suit your needs, help meet your transition goals, and allow you to live as independently as possible in the community of your choice.

You should plan early. Getting into adult service programs may take months. Accessing adult services will be very different from getting services through the school. The process will take time, many phone calls, lots of follow-up and appeals. Try not to get discouraged. Don't give up!

You will need to plan how to fund your future services, trainings, supports and your living arrangements.

Adult service options and funding sources are very different from child-focused services and funding. Some differences are:

- Government-funded programs for adults are very limited;
- You must meet the program's eligibility guidelines in order to get services;
- There are waiting lists, applications, disability determinations and other processes required.

Residential Living for People with Disabilities

Options include a range of settings that enable individuals with disabilities to live with their own families, or in their own homes or apartments with supportive services from community-based supported living service providers.

- **Independent living** - you live on your own.
- **Supported living** - you need minimal levels of help to live and work in the community. Some individuals may hire a personal assistant, roommates share responsibilities, and family members may take turns to help out.
- **Supervised Apartments** - for individuals who need more than 12, but less than 24 hours of support per day in an apartment setting
- **Staffed Apartments** - for individuals requiring 24-hour support in an apartment setting
- **Shared Living** - for individuals who want to live in a family setting

- **Neighborhood Homes** - for up to 5 individuals in a single-family home setting. These homes are licensed by the Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection and must meet a minimum acceptable standard for living conditions and supports.
- **Community-Integrated -Group Homes** - Group homes are shared living options for housing. In this setting, individuals live together in a home supported by an agency to assist with daily living skills and service coordination. These homes are funded primarily with federal and state dollars with the agency acting as payee for Social Security. Group homes are a way to share resources and funding to help individuals by providing a safe living environment through adequate staffing and service. Group homes are staffed 24 hours a day with a specified ratio of staff to residents. When looking for a group home, ask about the staffing ratio for the home. These homes often have access to local stores, libraries and restaurants.
- [Section 8](#) - A program that provides assistance for housing based on income. To find out information or to apply for this program a person should contact their local housing authority. This program often has a waiting list so applying early is important. It is also important to find out about the rules that govern the wait list and ask questions so you may be fully informed.

Find Supported Living Arrangements

- Find and ask about **unique group arrangements** funded by the residents' families. Such families pool their resources to provide supportive living arrangements in single-family homes for their family members with disabilities who need help with daily living skills.
- State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP) – rental assistance in the form of housing vouchers for youth exiting foster care and individuals who require services to live independently. Contact your DFS or DHSS case manager to apply.
- [Community Based Behavioral Health and Recovery Support Programs](#) - Delaware's system of care is a comprehensive, integrated recovery approach to working with people diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and sometimes a co-occurring substance abuse problem.
- [Community, Supported or Apartment](#) - Mosaic a faith-based organization that helps individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing information and housing in New Castle County.
- **System of Care** - The Eligibility and Enrollment Unit at DSAMH can answer questions regarding the system of care programs and is responsible for determining if someone is eligible for services. For more information, contact the [Eligibility and Enrollment Unit](#).

Housing Information in Delaware

- [Delaware Housing Search](#) - This is a FREE easy-to-use housing locator service that actually got its start from conversations with individuals in the disability community who needed housing with features that best meet their needs but were having a hard time finding them.

In addition to the website, this service is supported by a toll-free call center. It provides real-time, detailed information about rental housing and affordable homes for sale through Delaware. It also has a lot of information on housing and housing related services. Both the website and the call center are bilingual for Spanish-speaking populations.

Contact Information:

Office: 704-334-8722

Toll Free: 1-877-428.8844

Fax: 704-334-0779

Español: 1-877-428-8844

TTD/TTY: 7-1-1 [Relay Service Opens new browser window]

- [Statewide listing of Affordable and Subsidized Housing](#) - Listing of agencies, rentals and housing in Delaware.
- **Equal Access to Credit and Capital** - [Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc.](#)
- [Delaware Division of Human Relations](#)
- [Housing Services Directory](#) – Up-to-date information on housing services and providers in Delaware. Delaware provides a variety of options throughout the state that allow for independent living of individuals with disabilities. A number of opportunities and supportive services are available to low-and moderate-income Delawareans. Explore options for a comfortable transition that suits your needs and allows you to live independently.

Delaware State Housing Directory is an easy to use guide for affordable housing services and sites in Delaware. The Directory is available by calling the DSHA's Public information office at 888-363-8808 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by accessing the link above.

You can also call **1-888-363-8808** and ask for a copy, or email: ContactDSHA@DEStateHousing.com.

- **Community and Choice: Housing Needs for People with Disabilities in Delaware.** The Delaware Housing Coalition, the Housing Sub-Committee of the Governor's Commission on Community Based Alternative's for People with Disabilities, along with the State Council for Persons with Disabilities drafted a report entitled "*Community and Choice: Housing Needs for People with Disabilities in Delaware*". This report contains important information on the many types of living situations for individuals with varying degrees of disability. The report also contains a glossary of terms (p.92) that one may find helpful when researching housing options; including universal design and adaptable features for housing. Information about the [State Rental Assistance Program for young adults exiting the foster care system](#) is also available in the report (p.36).

- **Advocacy for Independent Living** – [The Freedom Center for Independent Living](#) (FCIL) provides free services in advocacy , information, referral, independent living skills and peer support.
- **Independent Living Plan** – [Independent Resources, Inc.](#) can help you develop an independent living plan, gives training in homemaking, financial management and a variety of other skills.
- **Regional Community Services Offices** - [Regional Community Services Office](#) for information about Residential Services.
- **Delaware Housing Coalition** – [Housing for All](#) is dedicated to make housing affordable throughout Delaware.
- [Homeless Planning Council of Delaware](#)

Legal Housing Assistance

- **Report Housing Discrimination** - Fair housing practices are a right that everyone is entitled to. If you feel that you are being discriminated against, or held to a different standard because of your disability the [Community Legal Aid Society](#) has resources and information to help you.
- **Understand Fair Housing** – Housing Opportunities of Northern Delaware (HOND) offers guidance and information on Fair Housing Law Mortgage terms and foreclosure prevention alternatives.

Tenant’s Rights in Delaware

- **Residential Landlord Tenant Code and Mobile Home Lots and Leases Act** – Delaware Attorney General’s [Summary of the Delaware Residential Landlord Tenant Code](#) and the [Mobile Home Lots and Leases Act](#) protect consumers rights.

Federal Assistance

- **Know your rights for fair housing.** For information, go online to the [U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development](#)
- The [Housing Assistance](#) web site contains resources about rental and homeownership assistance, housing accessibility and other programs that help with locating and securing housing for people with disabilities.
- **Advocates for Affordable Housing** - [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)
Established in 1974, the National Low Income Housing Coalition/LIHIS is dedicated to ending America’s affordable housing crisis. The NLIHC is committed to educating, organizing, and advocating to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods for everyone. NLIHC provides up-to-date information, formulates policy, and educates the public on housing needs and the strategies for solutions.

- **Rural Housing Information** - [HAC – The Housing Assistance Council](#)

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is a national nonprofit corporation created to increase the availability of decent and affordable housing for low-income people in rural areas throughout the United States. Established in 1971, HAC provides many services for local, state, and national organizations including loans, publications, technical assistance, training, and special projects.

- **National Housing Law Advocacy Center** - [National Housing Law Project](#)

The goal of NHLP is to advance housing justice for the poor by increasing and preserving the supply of decent affordable housing, by improving existing housing conditions, including physical conditions and management practices, by expanding and enforcing low-income tenants' and homeowners' rights, and by increasing opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. NHLP works to achieve that goal by providing legal assistance, advocacy advice and housing expertise to legal services and other attorneys, low-income housing advocacy groups, and others who serve the poor.

- **Homelessness Alliance** - [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to mobilize individuals and the nonprofit, profit and public sectors of society to end homelessness. The Alliance represents a united effort to attack the root causes of homelessness and fight society's acceptance of homelessness as an inevitable by-product of American life

- **Coalition for Homelessness** - [National Coalition for the Homeless](#)

The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national advocacy network of homeless persons, activists, service providers, and others committed to ending homelessness through public education, policy advocacy, grassroots organizing, and technical assistance.

- [Habitat for Humanity](#) - may be able to help you identify accessible and affordable housing. Use the Habitat online search tool, or call them at **1-800-422-4828**.