

EXPANDING HOUSING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE IN NY STATE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- 95,000+ New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) live independently or with aging caregivers, often without adequate support.
- OPWDD regulations limit housing subsidies to no more than four individuals living together, restricting choice and innovation.
- Families face crisis placements due to lack of housing options.
- Aging infrastructure and capital funding limitations worsen the shortage.
- Regulatory barriers: Emphasis on compliance over outcomes restricts innovation.
- Nurse Practices Act limits DSPs from administering medication in non-certified settings, further restricting housing flexibility.



“Everybody should have a place that they feel comfortable... people with disabilities should have the right to find that home”
~ Ellen, ACANY Member

PROPOSAL: EXPAND HOUSING OPTIONS

- Remove the four-person housing subsidy cap, aligning regulations with person-centered focus.
- Use Medicaid HCBS waivers and ARPA reinvestments for capital investment in community homes.
- Adopt proven, cost-effective models from states like Colorado and Minnesota, where inclusive housing approaches expand choice, and foster independence.

HOW EXPANDING HOUSING OPTIONS WORKS

- Leverage Self-Direction funding so individuals can pool and share resources.
- CCOs guide families, plan ahead, avoid crises.
- Partner with local developers and agencies to create flexible housing models (shared homes, co-housing, adaptive supports).
- Modernize regulations to enable creative solutions and use of modern technology such as telehealth.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Expanded housing options that reflect individual choice and preferences.
- Cost-effective models that reduce reliance on crisis placements.
- Greater community inclusion and independence.
- Improved health outcomes by reducing ER visits linked to housing instability.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve better.

Their families deserve better.

It's time to invest in dignity, equity, and the future of community-based care.