

Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council **Housing Principles**

Across the nation, people with developmental disabilities face a severe crisis in the availability of decent, safe, affordable, and accessible housing. Many individuals with developmental disabilities still live in large congregate facilities or other institutions.

CDDC believes that citizens with developmental disabilities should live in inclusive, safe, accessible and affordable communities of their choice, with people they choose to live with and be provided with the needed individualized supports and accommodations.

Policy Recommendations

- Increase the supply of affordable and accessible housing options that are integrated in the community, including home ownership and rental housing, to meet the growing unmet needs of people with disabilities and their families.
- Significantly increase funding for and protect the integrity of HUD programs -- such as the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, the HOME Investment Partnerships program, the Community Development Block Grant program -- and U.S. Department of Agriculture housing programs, as well as all other federal housing programs providing funding for people with disabilities.
- Provide funding to address the need for safe, affordable and accessible housing for individuals with disabilities due to weather related emergencies. Provide increased funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund with targeted eligibility criteria to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities.
- Remove barriers that prevent people from renting or buying their own homes through: simplifying programs; ensuring appropriate fair-market rents; eliminating discrimination based on source of income (such as SSI); permitting people to acquire assets without jeopardizing their SSI or Medicaid eligibility; providing funding to educate and train public housing authorities and service providers on the housing needs of people with disabilities; and ensuring fairness and equity.
- Require that projects developed through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit apply design standards identical to those in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.