



Department of Disabilities, Aging and  
Independent Living  
Developmental Disabilities Services  
Division

Julie Abrahamson, Residential  
Housing Developer



DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, AGING, AND INDEPENDENT LIVING; RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM DEVELOPER  
Limited-service position of the Residential Program Developer within the Department of Disabilities, Aging,  
and Independent Living



Developing



Assisting



Investigating



Teaming



Expanding



Collaborating



## Developing

Developing requests for proposals and identifying at least three pilot planning grants for different regions of the State focused on the needs identified in those regions.

# Act 186 (2022) Pilot Planning Grants



SECTION 5 OF [ACT 186 \(2022\)](#) REQUIRED THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PILOT PLANNING GRANTS.



APPROPRIATED \$500,000 IN GLOBAL COMMITMENT FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE (FMAP) DOLLARS TO FUND THESE PILOTS.



**Riverflow  
Community**

**CHAMPLAIN  
HOUSING TRUST**



  
**UPPER VALLEY  
SERVICES**



## Collaborating

Working with appropriate designated and specialized service agencies or other providers to implement selected pilots.

# Pilot Planning Grant Awardees



**Awarded three grants across Vermont.**



**Regions of focus include Addison, Chittenden, Orange, and Washington Counties.**



**New, innovative, and expanded models include:**

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Technology Supported Housing
- Intentional Community





# Teaming

Working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and allies to identify potential models for residential services.

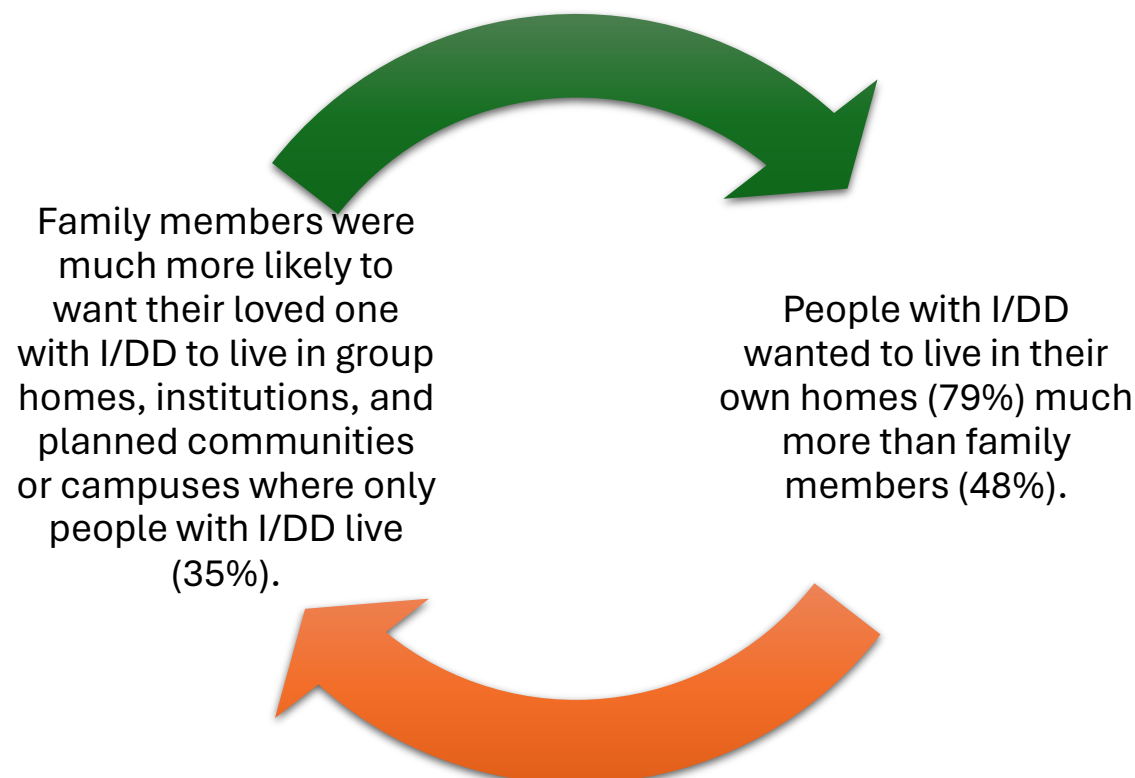




## Working Together

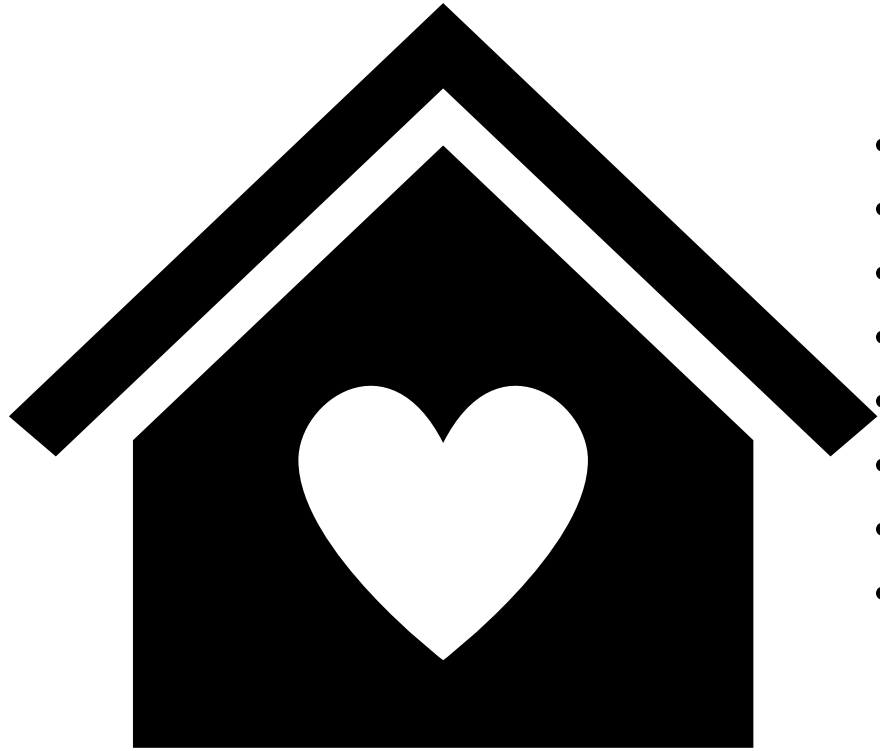
- Act 186 Steering Committee
- DDHI Parent Group
- DDHI Leadership Team
- Champlain Community Services Parent Group
- Rutland County Parent Group
- Addison County Parent Group
- Bennington County Parent Group
- Individual families throughout Vermont
- Green Mountain Self-Advocates
- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Vermont

The Arc and the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) released a [Housing Report](#) in 2019 that made clear that people with IDD need and want more options to live independently in their communities – equal access to affordable and accessible public housing can help fill that need.



Family members were much more likely to want their loved one with I/DD to live in group homes, institutions, and planned communities or campuses where only people with I/DD live (35%).

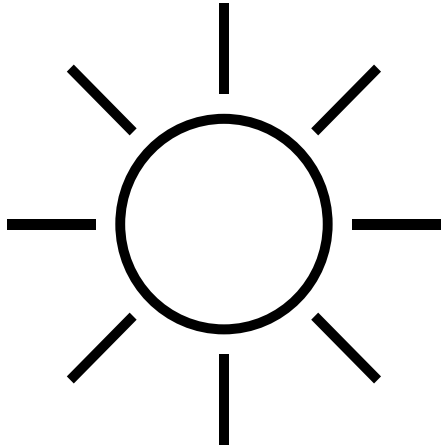
People with I/DD wanted to live in their own homes (79%) much more than family members (48%).



## Some Housing Models:

- [WheelPad](#)
- [Vermont Modular](#)
- [Heartbeet Lifesharing](#)
- [Maine KIF](#)
- [Visions for Creative Housing Solutions](#)
- [The Yellow House Community](#)
- [Maryland Main Street Program](#)
- [The Kelsey](#)

# The Kelsey



The Inclusive Design Standards define a set of multifamily housing design and operations strategies. Co-created by advocates, developers, and architects, the elements support cross-disability accessibility and link disability-forward design choices to intersectional benefits around affordability, sustainability, racial equity, and safety. Development teams can use the Design Standards to plan and design their projects, then self-certify their communities on their level of access and inclusion.

## **Next Steps:**

- Meeting: Policy and Advocacy
- Meeting: Housing Development
- Vermont [Design Standards Presentation](#)

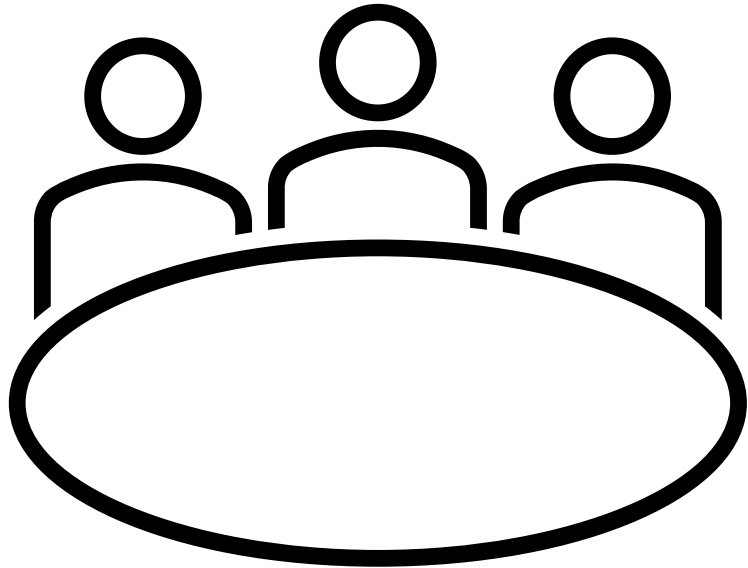
# SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

- Promotes autonomy, self-direction, and community engagement
- Address the direct care workforce shortages
- Drives more efficient and effective practices



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## Joining Forces

- **AHS Housing Task Force**
- **Vermont SHA Benefit Steering Group**
- **DAIL JEDI Committee**
- **Digital Core Team Meeting**
- **DDSD Housing Task Force**
- **Housing Portal Work Group**
- **DDSD Workforce Workgroup**
- **VTCHH: Housing Development Subcommittee**



## Investigate

Investigating public and private funding opportunities for residential program development for individuals with developmental disabilities



## Assisting

Assisting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families navigate publicly and privately funded housing and residential services options.



## **SECTION 811 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Summary:**

Through the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, HUD provides funding to develop and subsidize rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low- and extremely low-income adults with disabilities.

### **Purpose:**

The Section 811 program allows persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community by subsidizing rental housing that provides access to appropriate supportive services.



## Expand Access to Affordable Housing and Rental Assistance



### *In the past three years*

- HUD has issued **over 100,000 new vouchers**. That is a 20-year record.

### *In the 2025 Budget*

- The Budget provides \$32.8 billion to the Housing Choice Voucher program, which will provide housing for 2.3 million households and new vouchers to **20,000 more low-income households**.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 >>>

The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on the family's or individual's behalf, participants can find their housing, including single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments.



# Expanding

Expanding housing and residential services options for individuals with developmental disabilities in accordance with federal home- and community-based services regulations.



## Funding Resources:

- [The Kessler Foundation](#)
- [Section 8 Housing Vouchers](#)
- [Vermont Housing Improvement Program 2.0](#)
- [CIL](#)
- [Nurture Capital Partners](#)
- [Section 811 Supportive Housing For Persons With Disabilities](#)
- [USDA Loans](#)

Location	Partners	Est. no. of Units	General Description	Phase/Status
<b>Addison County</b>	CSAC, CIL, GrandCare-Smart Home Technology WheelPad	4-6	Expansion of traditional housing models, including planning and coordinating immediate efforts to prevent and address unsheltered homelessness.	Discussion
<b>Chittenden County</b>	Howard Center, CIL	1-3	Specialized Group Home	Discussion
<b>Franklin/Grand Isle Counties</b>	NCSS · DDHI Parents · Champlain Housing Trust	TBD	To be determined	Discussion
<b>Grand Isle County</b>	NCSS · Independent Family · Cedar Ledge Construction · GrandCare-Smart home technology	1-2	Renovation so individuals can gain independence with the potential for a peer roommate.	Discussion
<b>Lamoille County</b>	LCMH, CIL, GrandCare, DDH Parent	8	Apartment buildings with affordable, supportive housing to older Vermonters and individuals with I/DD	On Hold
<b>Northeast Kingdom Region</b>	NKHS, DDHI Parents, CIL, DDHI Parent	3-4	Intentional Community	Discussion
<b>Rutland County</b>	RMH, SSC, UVS/VCIN, CIL GrandCare	1-4	Specialized Staffed or Group home	In Progress
<b>Rutland County</b>	SSC · CIL · Rutland County Land Trust GrandCare- Smart Home Technology, DDHI Parent	1-4	Group Home	In Progress
<b>Rutland County</b>	RMHS · SVCOA · Sunshine Ridge Homeowners Association, Inc · R & W Development · GrandCare- Smart Home Technology	20-30	10 ranch-style duplex homes for older Vermonters and individuals with disabilities. The housing project would include a community garden, playground, and community center.	On hold
<b>Bennington County</b>	UCS, Shires Housing, CIL, GrandCare, DDHI Parents	TBD	To be determined	Discussion
<b>Northeast Kingdom</b>	NKHS, WheelPad , SLP's	10	Personal Accessible Dwellings (PAD) units for SLPs to provide a separate, safe, and supportive accessible living environment needed for the person in their care. The StudioPAD could also be available for individuals transitioning to living on their own while having support as they learn basic skills to be independent Support Pilots.	Discussion

# Additional Resources

- **Housing Resources:**

- [Arch The Arc](#)
- [for Choice | Disability Rights Advocacy](#)
- [National Income Housing Coalition](#)
- [The Council on Quality and Leadership](#)
- [Housing Report Ach and CQL](#)
- [Vermont Developmental Counseling Housing Report](#)

- **Safety Resources:**

- [Free Smoke Alarm Request: NH VT ME | Red Cross](#)
- [GrandCare](#)
- [Safety Connection - Howard Center](#)
- [911](#)

- **Workforce Resources:**

- [GrandCare Technology](#)
- [LADD](#)
- [Safety Connection - Howard Center](#)
- [Workforce and recruitment and retention seminars](#)
- [Technology First State of the state's](#)