Housing Trust Fund (HTF): Developmental Disabilities Set-aside

In order to help address the affordable, accessible housing crisis for people with a developmental disability, the legislature needs to fund the HTF Developmental Disabilities Set-Aside at $7 million for the 2021-2023 biennium.

The state Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) has identified over 90 houses to meet their current affordable, accessible housing need throughout WA.

Using past HTF development budgets for single-family houses, 90 homes would cost over $55 million to acquire and remodel. This set-aside request of $7 million could be leveraged with federal, local and/or other funding sources to develop as many as 20% of the houses currently needed.

Most individuals with a developmental disability living in the community receive the standard Social Security (SS) amount of $794/month. Using the Washington State definition of housing affordability, a tenant should pay no more than 30% of their income towards rent and utilities. For the standard SS, this would be $238 a month. Even if a person with a developmental disability used all of their income of $794/month for rent and utilities, they still wouldn’t find any market-rate housing. Even having 1, 2 or 3 roommates would still require using all or most of one’s SS income to pay for just rent and utilities.

The legislature started the Developmental Disability Set-Aside in 1993 to help fund the development of long-term affordable, accessible housing for extremely low-income people with a developmental disability. The HTF requires that a nonprofit owner maintain the affordable rents of 30% of income for a period of 40-years.

Fund the Developmental Disabilities Set-Aside at the $7 million level.

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