


Fund Housing for the Multicultural Community with Disabilities

Washington is home to culturally and linguistically diverse people with disabilities and their families. The current housing system does not reflect the housing needs or preferences of diverse communities. Washington's housing development policies prioritize the western norm of individualism and centers community voices which reflect western values. The result is housing which doesn't meet the basic needs of diverse communities.


Assessment of Community Needs


In 2021, ODMF conducted surveys and focus groups with families, care givers, people with disabilities and providers to understand the housing needs of diverse communities. Overall, they highlighted needs such as **access to groceries and retail, neighborhoods that are safe and friendly to people with disabilities, and access to public transit.** Parents and caregivers asked for programs and services. People with disabilities and their families strongly emphasized a desire for community engagement and support for activities of daily living.

Community Survey Results

 **Housing insecurity:** 24% of the households surveyed report they are at risk of losing their home.

Limited Space: A lack of 3+ bedroom apartments to accommodate larger households.

 **Multigenerational:** 45% of people with IDD's want to live with their family in the future. 85% of parents of adults with disabilities want them to live in the same household.

 **Housing Needs:** 66% of households surveyed reported their housing arrangements did "not at all" or only "somewhat" met their needs.

The Multicultural Village

Open Doors for Multicultural Families is partnering with Mercy Housing, City of Kent, Sound Transit, local, and state officials to build an affordable, accessible, inclusive, and culturally affirming housing development in Kent, WA. **The Multicultural Village will house 200 individuals and families, with 40 units reserved for people with disabilities and their families.** The Multicultural Village will include:

- An inclusive community of people with and without disabilities living together.
- Easy access to basic needs such as healthcare, public transportation, retail, and groceries
- Culturally and linguistically responsive programs and services on site.
- Accessible facilities and amenities for fitness/wellness, recreation, and socializing

The Ask

- ✓ **We're asking the Washington Legislature to provide \$22 million dollars in capital funds, necessary for non-residential construction costs, to complete this \$134 million-dollar project.**