



Protect Our Access to Housing:

How can we ensure that people with I/DD have safe, affordable, and inclusive places to live?

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People with intellectual and developmental disabilities need safe, affordable, inclusive, and accessible homes—just like everyone else. Yet for many individuals with I/DD, finding and keeping housing is increasingly out of reach.

Most people with I/DD are **extremely low-income**, relying on Supplemental Security Income (SSI)—**\$994 per month**—or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Nationally, only **6% of housing units are accessible**, and a recent report found that **there is no housing market in the United States where a person living on SSI can afford a modest rental home** without assistance.

Here in Washington, rapidly rising housing costs have compounded the crisis. Without rental subsidies, housing is simply unattainable for most people with I/DD. Asset limits tied to SSI—generally **\$2,000 or less**—make it nearly impossible to save for first month's rent, security deposits, or basic move-in costs.

Washington State has not adequately invested in affordable housing for individuals with I/DD and now faces a shortage of **more than 37,000 units**. Today, **fewer than 3% of Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) clients** live in Housing Trust Fund units set aside specifically for people with developmental disabilities.

While the state invested **\$100 million through the Housing Trust Fund DD Set-Aside over the past two biennia**, this level of investment is not sufficient to meaningfully address the scale of the need. Substantially increased and sustained funding will be required to close the gap.

The lack of housing also delays access to essential services. Individuals waiting for **Supported Living** cannot receive services until housing is secured. Because Supported Living is provided in a person's own home, individuals must pay rent themselves—making affordable housing a prerequisite to care.

Without intentional investment, people with I/DD are left without housing, without services, and without real choices.

What We Need

Washington must make significant, sustained investments in affordable, accessible housing for people with I/DD, including:

- **“Scattered-site” housing**, such as single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, and smaller apartment buildings, that promote community inclusion
- **Accessible, durable homes** designed to support people with high needs, including:
 - Space for in-home and overnight support staff
 - Staff parking
 - Noise mitigation and soundproofing
 - Proximity to reliable transportation
- **Expanded access to DD-prioritized housing vouchers** to bridge the affordability gap for extremely low-income individuals

What to Watch for This Session

- [HB 2266 SB 6069](#)- Encouraging permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, and indoor emergency shelters.
- Housing Trust Fund investments and DD set-aside allocations
- Proposals to expand rental subsidies or housing vouchers for people with I/DD

Questions: Contact The Arc of Washington cathy@arcwa.org 425-269-9915