TORONTO DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES ALLIANCE







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WHY HOUSING MATTERS

- The **right to adequate housing is a human right** recognized in international human rights law as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. One of the first references to it is in article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Persons with developmental disabilities often face three major barriers to accessing appropriate & affordable housing:
 - \rightarrow Access
 - \rightarrow Affordability
 - → Alignment of Housing and Supports
- Accessing affordable housing and funding for supports for individuals with a developmental disability are not streamlined as one pathway. Often, families only receive assistance once they are forced into crisis. When that happens, others are bumped further down the waitlists.

TDSA 2017 HOUSING FORUM

Challenges

- Affordability
 - → Many people with a developmental disability rely on (ODSP) as their main source of income.
- Alignment of Housing & Supports
 - → Need affordable housing and access to appropriate and individualized supports together
- Developmental Services sector-specific challenges
 - → Zoning guidelines and fire code legislation, requiring additional housing capacity

Recommendations

- Individuals and families to have more options for support
- Allow for more realistically affordable options
- Access/create more capital funding for new developments
- Have more committed operating funds to help secure future housing opportunities



TDSA HOUSING WORK 2018

Information Sharing

- Development of a document of key messages outlining TDSA housing issues/needs/requests
- Maintaining the TDSA website
- Collection of TDSA housing-related data

Community Engagement & Relationship Building

- Engage in community events
- Organize TDSA Third Housing Forum
- Development of a list of local MPPs/local city councilors and which TDSA agencies are located within their catchment

Supporting Socially Inclusive Housing

 Working with Evergreen Housing Action Lab to develop materials for a Socially Inclusive Housing Design



 5% of housing developments be dedicated to individuals with a developmental disability.

- 2. Promotion of partnerships between housing developers and Developmental Services agencies to access or retain referral agreements for 25+ years.
- Mechanisms to reduce the gap between income supports and AMR rates so that individuals and their families don't have to continue "cobbling together" funds to afford decent and safe housing.
- Availability of funding for supports with housing opportunities to increase our capacity to provide housing and supports for people with a developmental disability.
- Support for innovative solutions that enable transitional aged youth and those with complex support needs to successfully move into housing within the community of their choice.
- 6. Streamlined approvals and realignment of zoning and fire code applications to enable
- people of varying abilities to have choice of whom they live with.

TDSA HOUSING DATA

- **950+ years** of combined knowledge
- Providing housing & housing supports to 2,100+ individuals
 - Mainly in congregate living settings, rental apartments, family owned homes
 - Treatment beds, shelters, long-term care homes
- TDSA agencies hoping to access over **280+ housing units**
 - **6+ agencies** within the next year
 - **13+ agencies** within the next 3-5 years
- Agencies looking to access rental apartments (bachelor 3+ bedrooms), owning homes with 2-4+ bedrooms, condos
- Agencies must manage **various risks** when accessing housing opportunities
 - Operational costs
 - Zoning, fire code applications, by-laws
 - Recruitment and retention of skilled staff

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to engage with developers to create partnerships on affordable housing
 - Utilize the contact list of MPPs/City Councillors for planned/existing affordable housing opportunities
- Socially Inclusive Housing Design
 - Draft a report that highlights the importance of building designs that enhances social connectedness and addresses social isolation within new high-rise stand alone buildings
 - Utilize report to access new funding streams that support socially inclusive design within these new developing vertical communities
- Continue to utilize the information/outreach materials on the website to support ongoing efforts related to accessing affordable housing
 - Document of key messages
 - TDSA Affordable Housing Brochure
 - TDSA Housing Sub Committee Materials (Geo Map Report, Housing Forum Reports & Summary Reports)

TDSA WEBSITE

