

## WHO WE ARE

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance (TDSA) is a network of 27 not-for-profit organizations that provide a wide range of residential and community-based supports for people with a developmental disability. Collectively, we serve thousands of individuals and families living in Toronto and the GTA. TDSA formed a Housing Sub-Committee in 2016 to address the critical shortage of affordable housing options available for people with a developmental disability. Visit [www.tdsa.ca](http://www.tdsa.ca) for more info.

## WHAT THE ISSUE IS

People with a developmental disability need both affordable housing and adequate supports in order to live successfully within their communities. There is no one pathway for them to access both affordable housing and funding for supports at the same time. As a result, they sit on the Developmental Services waitlist for funded supports, as opposed to affordable housing waitlists. Developmental Services agencies do not have additional housing capacity for individuals when they receive residential funding for supports through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Zoning guidelines and fire code legislation further complicate 3 or more people living together with 24/7 supports in a building, limiting their choices within community.

## WHAT WE NEED

Access, Affordability and Alignment of Housing and Supports. People with a developmental disability and their families need community agencies, government, municipalities and housing developers to collaborate and reduce obstacles, so they can access affordable housing and supports at the same time. Furthermore, the ODSP shelter allowance of \$489 per month is not enough for them to access affordable housing that is based on current Average Market Rent (AMR) rates.

## WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

1. 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.
3. 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.
4. Availability of funding for supports with housing opportunities to increase our capacity to provide housing and supports for people with a developmental disability.
5. 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.