

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance Housing Sub-Committee

Final Report



March 2019

Background

At the 2018 Housing Forum, the Toronto Developmental Services Alliance (TDSA) Housing Sub-Committee announced that it will be wrapping up their work and dissolving in March 2019. The intention of this Final Report is to provide a summary of the work the TDSA Housing Sub-Committee has engaged in since its formation over 3 years ago, and outline recommendations for consideration. The Housing Sub-Committee would also like to emphasize the resources that can continue to be utilized as advocacy tools for more affordable housing for individuals with a developmental disability.

The TDSA is a voluntary organization comprised of 28 Developmental Services agencies that focus primarily on advocacy, information sharing and developing innovative services and practices that respond to the emerging needs and interests of people with a developmental disability. Collectively, the TDSA serves thousands of individuals and families living in the City of Toronto, the GTA and beyond.

Various members of the TDSA were facing similar issues within their agencies maintaining, accessing and developing housing opportunities for the people they serve. These issues are often not agency-based, but part of a larger societal issue that creates barriers for people with a developmental disability accessing affordable and supportive housing. The TDSA formed a Housing Sub-Committee in February 2016 to address these issues and examine the critical shortage of affordable housing (rental and ownership) options available for people with a developmental disability.

TDSA recognizes that access to affordable housing remains an important topic, therefore housing discussions will continue to be held with TDSA member agencies as a whole. TDSA member agencies will continue to strive to create new, affordable and innovative housing solutions for the clients they serve.

The intention of the Housing Sub-Committee was to work together with relevant partners to create new and innovative housing solutions, to ensure that the needs of this population remains an important focus moving forward. TDSA member agencies will continue to strive to create new, affordable and innovative housing solutions for the clients they serve.

Members of the TDSA Housing Sub-Committee

Antoniet Orlando (Meta Centre), Arthur Mathews (The Salvation Army Broadview Village), Bryan Keshen (Reena), Ebenezer Rajeevan (Christian Horizons), Frances MacNeil (Community Living Toronto), Paul Bruce (Cota), Raphael Arens (L'Arche), Shay Johnson (Housing Navigator), Susan Bisailon (Safehaven) and Tullio Orlando (Montage Support Services)

Timeline of Accomplishments

2016

February

- Formation of TDSA Housing Sub-Committee
- Housing Partnership Template created

April

- Results from TDSA Housing Survey compiled noting upcoming and current housing opportunities of TDSA member agencies
- Introduction meeting with Create TO (Formerly Build Toronto) and Sean Gadon, Director of City of Toronto's Affordable Housing Office (AHO)

May

- Final approval of Terms of Reference

July

- Letter in support of Inclusionary Zoning drafted for Sean Gadon (AHO Director)
- Cover letter and fact sheet created re: Affordable Home Ownership

August

- Inclusionary Zoning Consultation Feedback submitted to the Ministry of Housing (MOH) regarding the positive impact inclusionary zoning could have for the Developmental Services sector and other underserved populations. 43 agencies signed in support of this.

October

- Literature Review conducted re: The Impact of Housing and Homelessness on Persons with Developmental Disability
- Comprehensive TDSA Affordable and Supportive Housing Guide created
- Successful completion of 2016 TDSA Affordable and Supportive Housing Forum

2017

February

- Housing Allowances to Maintain Successful Tenancies Request For Proposal (RFP) submitted
- Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) proposal for contract staff approved

May

- TDSA Housing Navigator hired
- Inclusive Housing Design session at Create TO (Formerly Build Toronto) with summary of session uploaded on TDSA website
 - Engaged 20+ Planners, Architects, Developers, City of Toronto representatives

September

- Referral Agreement Template shared amongst TDSA member agencies
- TDSA Brochure focusing on affordable, barrier-free, supportive and inclusive housing developed as advocacy material

November

- Confirmed commitment with private developer to explore partnership for Tippet
- TDSA facilitated partnership on RFP for West Don Lands, Grenville and Grosvenor with a private developer, partners from Developmental Services agencies and other service areas for a total of 89 units across three locations
- TDSA public website with Housing Sub-Committee and housing-related information launched
- Successful completion of 2017 TDSA Housing Forum

2018

January

- TDSA meeting with Minister Jaczek's Office re: TDSA work on affordable housing. Briefing note made accessible on TDSA website.

February

- Contracted Evergreen Housing Action Lab to provide backbone support for TDSA Inclusive Housing Design work which includes enabling progression, profiling TDSA work and formatting information for potential future projects.
- TDSA 2017 Housing Forum Report published on TDSA website

March

- Partnership with OASIS to host National Housing Strategy Webinar
- Presentation to MCSS Housing Task Force for their evaluation report and final recommendations
- TDSA Geographic Mapping Report published on TDSA website
 - Locations of various types of housing services TDSA provides were mapped to be used as a tool to inform agencies of existing or potential neighbourhood supports when contemplating new developments

April

- TDSA Housing Sub-Committee 2017-18 Summary Report published on TDSA website. Report included outline of housing opportunities TDSA member agencies were exploring, TDSA representation in the community and focus for 2019 year.
- TDSA Housing Sub-Committee Work Plan to MCSS Toronto Region Office submitted with links to applicable reports.

May

- Development of 2018-19 Work Plan focused on Information Sharing, Community Engagement & Relationship-Building and Supporting Inclusive Housing

June

- TDSA One Page Summary of Key Issues published on TDSA website as advocacy material to utilize in affordable housing discussions.

October

- TDSA Housing Sub-Committee presentation at DSO Fair for community engagement purposes and to promote utilization of TDSA website.

November

- 2019 TDSA Housing Survey Results compiled of how many individuals served and housing services provided by TDSA member agencies.
- Successful completion of 2018 TDSA Housing Forum, the third Housing Forum hosted by the TDSA Housing Sub-Committee

December

- Compiled contact information of current City Councillors and MPPs, based on the main office locations for TDSA member agencies, posted on TDSA website for advocacy purposes.

2019

January

- TDSA 2018 Housing Forum Report published on TDSA website

March

- TDSA Housing Sub-Committee presents completed 2018-19 Work Plan and Final Report to the TDSA
- TDSA Housing Sub-Committee Final Report made available on TDSA website

Links to Key Advocacy Materials

A Focus on Affordable and Supportive Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities

Key issues affecting our sector

TDSA Brochure: Outlining Key Issues Affecting our Sector
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/TDSA-Brochure-Nov-2017.pdf>

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance

WHO WE ARE

WHAT THE ISSUE IS

WHAT WE NEED

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

One Pager: Advocating for more Affordable Housing for Individuals with a Developmental Disability
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/one-pager.pdf>

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance

TDSA City Councillors and MPPs - 2018

Yellow - Agency

White - TDSA Agency City Councillor Information based on head office (as of December 2018)

Green - TDSA Agency MPP Information based on head office

808 RIMMEL CANADIAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE DEAF
 2395 Bayview Avenue, North York, ON M2L 1A2
 TEL: 416 449-9551
 FAX: 416 380 3419

Councillor Jaye Robinson - Ward 15 Don Valley West
 Toronto City Hall
 100 Queen Street West, Suite A12
 Toronto, ON M5H 2K2
 Telephone: 416-325-5408
 Fax: 416-325-5439
 Email: councillor_robinson@toronto.ca

Don Valley West
 Electoral District Number 22
 Room 420
 Multi-Legislative Building,
 Queen's Park
 Toronto
 Kathleen O. Wynne
 ksynne.mpp@toronto.ca

Queen's Park
 Room 101
 795 Eglinton Avenue East
 Toronto
 Ontario
 M7A 1A8
 Tel: 416-425-6777
 Fax: 416-425-0359

Don Valley East
 Electoral District Number 23
 Room 420
 Multi-Legislative Building,
 Queen's Park
 Toronto
 Kathleen O. Wynne
 ksynne.mpp@toronto.ca

Don Valley North
 Electoral District Number 24
 Room 420
 Multi-Legislative Building,
 Queen's Park
 Toronto
 Kathleen O. Wynne
 ksynne.mpp@toronto.ca

Don Valley South
 Electoral District Number 25
 Room 420
 Multi-Legislative Building,
 Queen's Park
 Toronto
 Kathleen O. Wynne
 ksynne.mpp@toronto.ca

DATE Agency Attended City Councilor/MPP office:

CORNBROOK
 551 Thelway Drive, Toronto, Ont. M8M 4B8
 TEL: 416 245-5555
 FAX: 416 245-0359

Toronto City Councillors & MPPs: Based on TDSA Member Agency Locations
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/TDSA-City-Councillor-MPP-info-DECEMBER-2018.pdf>

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance

2017 Housing Forum Report

TDSA 2017 Housing Forum Report: Summary and Recommendations
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-TDSA-Housing-Forum-Report.pdf>

Toronto Developmental Services Alliance

Housing Sub-Committee

2017-18 Summary Report

TDSA Summary Report: Completed Work-to-Date & Recommendations
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/TDSA-Summary-Report-2017-18-FINAL.pdf>

2018 HOUSING FORUM

Forum Report

TDSA 2018 Housing Forum Report: Summary & Overview of Panel Discussion
<http://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2018-TDSA-Housing-Forum-Report-1.pdf>

For TDSA Consideration

As the TDSA Housing Sub-Committee comes to a close, it asks the TDSA as a whole to consider upholding the following efforts. This will help ensure the issue of affordable and supportive housing for our sector continues to be addressed moving forward:

1. Maintain communications about the need for more housing that is deeply affordable, accessible, safe, supported and welcoming of people with a developmental disability;
2. Provide a coordinated access point for Developmental Services agencies when the City, private developers or other potential partners approach TDSA regarding housing opportunities;
3. Act as broker/networker when there are opportunities and it is beneficial to include other sectors or marginalized groups, rather than competing against their need for affordable housing.

The TDSA website will continue to be emphasized as a valuable resource for materials and information for Developmental Services agencies as well as individuals with a developmental disability and their families. Please visit www.tdsa.ca to access this information.

The TDSA Housing Sub-Committee would like to thank everyone for their support and shared goal of addressing the unique housing needs of individuals with a developmental disability.

