




Housing and Services
Resource Center

**Identifying and Building Partnerships with
Your Local Housing Sector**

Workshop 3
Engaging Local Housing Officials

2023

Virtual Workshop Series

- Workshop #1 Introductory housing concepts
 - Workshop #2 Public housing and HUD-assisted housing resources
 - **Workshop #3** **Engaging local housing officials**
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Housing and Services Resource Center

Coordinating access to affordable,
accessible housing and critical community services



acl.gov/HousingAndServices #HousingResources

Connecting the housing sector and the community living networks



1. Coordinate Technical Assistance
2. Facilitate Partnerships
3. Recognize and Share Innovations
4. Leverage and Align Resources

Learn more at: acl.gov/HousingAndServices

Advancing Community Living Through Coordination Between Housing and Voluntary Community Services

The purpose of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is to provide equal opportunities, full community participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and provides them with the right to receive services in the most integrated community-based setting appropriate to their needs. Community living is fundamental to fulfilling the promise of the ADA.

For many people with disabilities of all ages, community living requires that they have access to affordable, accessible housing and voluntary services¹ to assist with long-term service and support needs. These services include community services like [Medicaid-funded home and community-based services](#) (HCBS), mental health and substance use services, tenancy supports, and more.

Without access to appropriate housing and services, many people with disabilities end up in an institution or experience homelessness. Data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s [Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#) indicates that as many as 48.5% (approximately 550,000) single adults and heads of households who used homeless shelters over the course of a year report having a disability. A combination of affordable housing and access to community services is vital to help them obtain housing and remain housed.

Ensuring community living has taken on even greater urgency due to COVID-19. While most Americans sought safety from the COVID-19 pandemic by staying in their homes, people in congregate settings like institutions and homeless shelters faced high risk of COVID-19 transmission, illness, and even death. Providing people with housing and services is critical to protecting people with disabilities and older adults from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

In order for people with disabilities of all ages to have access to both the housing and the services and supports they need to live in the community, there must be collaboration and coordination between housing and service systems at all levels of government. That's why the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and HUD are announcing a federal partnership to coordinate and align each Department's respective resources and to work together to build and strengthen partnerships between our networks and grantees at the state and local levels.

1. The term "voluntary services" means that people choose the services they want and are not required to use services provided by the housing provider.

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What's Possible

When we work together to align and leverage our work to coordinate affordable, accessible housing with increased access to health and social services, we create the infrastructure to fully meet the needs of the people we serve.


“Partnerships don’t just happen, however. They need ‘connective tissue’—an infrastructure supporting frequent and systemic level collaborations—to help form the partnership and hold it together over time.”

[Building connective tissue for effective housing-health initiatives \(brookings.edu\)](https://www.brookings.edu/)

Why Reach Out and Engage with Local Housing Officials?

- We serve the same people!
- The disability, aging and/or health sectors provide services people served by the housing sector need and use.
- We are stronger together and can leverage our resources, expertise, innovation, problem solving skills and overcome challenges.

Preparing to Reach Out to Local Officials

- Do your homework!
 - Do you have a local/county Public Housing Agency?
 - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts
 - Does your community have HUD-assisted housing?
 - HUD Housing Locator <https://resources.hud.gov/>
 - <https://www.ncsha.org/housing-help/>
 - Explore existing housing-services partnerships
 - [Continuum of Care \(CoC\) contacts](#)
- 


More Homework!

- House America
 - https://www.hud.gov/house_america/partners
- Visit HUD's Housing Choice Voucher dashboard and the Emergency Housing Voucher dashboard to learn if there are vouchers available in your community or state
 - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ehv/dashboard
 - https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/hcv/dashboard

Preparing Questions for Local Officials

- Develop a list of questions for the agencies
 - What housing opportunities are available for older adults? people with disabilities?
 - What are the eligibility requirements for these programs?
 - Is the application process open at this time?
 - Do you have any accessible units available at this time?
 - Do you have many older adults or people with disabilities in your programs at this time?
 - Do you partner with any community services agencies? Which ones?


Compile Data to Share with Local Officials

- Compile data about the needs of people with disabilities and older adults in your community
 - How many older adults or people with disabilities does your agency serve who want to leave a nursing facility and have community-based services but cannot leave without housing?
 - How many of your clients are at risk because they live in unsafe conditions or need accessible housing?
 - How many of your clients are at risk of or are being evicted because they can no longer afford their housing situation?
 - How many of your clients are homeless or at risk of homelessness?
 - What size units do your clients need?
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Other Data to Consider

- What home modifications or assistive technology could be available through your organization or partners to make units accessible or increase independence of people residing in units ultimately increasing housing stability?
- What are readmission rates at hospitals? What are the causes? Do you have programs that address these issues (like fall prevention programs)?
- What are eviction trends? Does your organization offer services that can help people manage their finances and pay rent on time?


Identifying Connections to Local Officials

- Can you “network” to any board members or agency employees?
 - Do you, your staff or your board have any connections to the housing agencies in your community?
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What Do You Bring to the Table?

- Housing agencies provide housing not services!
 - Housing agencies recognize the need for services and supports for their tenants!
 - Housing agencies want to partner with agencies that can:
 - Refer eligible applicants when there are openings
 - Help tenants with move-in
 - Help tenants be successful: pay rent on time, keep unit clean, etc
 - Be available when tenancy issues arise
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Establishing New Partnerships: Lessons Learned

- Establish key points of contact
 - Revisit regularly to update when there's turnover
 - Establish mutual understanding
 - Define roles and responsibilities
 - Meet regularly and as often as needed
 - Set mutual goals and review progress
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Was this workshop helpful to you? What are other areas of interest?

Please email us at hsrc@acl.hhs.gov

Check us out

www.acl.gov/housingandservices

About These Virtual Workshops

The following organizations contributed to this product: Technical Assistance Collaborative and USAging. The National Council on Independent Living, and Independent Living Research Utilization provided reviews.



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