

For Policymakers: Fair Housing for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



This information will help **policymakers** better **understand** housing issues for people with **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)** and ways to **resolve** them. In 2024, FHCO conducted a series of statewide listening sessions regarding housing issues facing people with IDD. Participants included people with IDD, family members, disability services providers, housing providers, and other partners.

Considerations for policy makers

- **Policymaking** frequently **overlooks** the needs of **people with IDD** with limited inclusion, no inclusion, or tokenized inclusion of people with lived experience crafting in housing strategies.
- There is a significantly **limited supply** of **affordable and accessible housing**. Across the US, only 16% of accessible units were rented to someone with a disability, per 2011 ACS data.
- **Housing accessibility** for people with IDD often means **simplicity of design** for features like thermostats, dishwashers, water faucets, noise proofing, and calming spaces. Accessibility may also mean **support services** like **case management** and **services navigation**, which are historically underfunded.

Best practices

- **Include people with IDD and service providers in lawmaking processes** including **planning** and **structural development** to ensure **full integration** and support within society. **Needs assessments**, **focus groups**, and **policy vetting** are ways to **meaningfully engage** people with lived experience and service providers.
- Seek **education** to learn about **housing barriers** people with IDD experience when seeking accessible and affordable housing (Community Vision, cvision.org; Kuni Foundation, kunifoundation.org)

Examples of Local Legislation to promote community inclusivity for people with IDD

[The City of Alameda, Universal Design ordinance](#)

[The City of Chicago, subsidizing modifications](#)

[The City of Pittsburgh, Disability Compliance Office](#)