

HOUSING POSITION PAPER

Safe, affordable housing is a fundamental need for all citizens, yet it is not easily secured, particularly by people with disabilities, who often have very low incomes and a need for accessible, not merely affordable, housing. Increased resources and sound public policy decisions at all levels are necessary to ensure ready access to desirable housing options. We suggest that the following principles be followed in the public policy development and decision-making processes.

Inclusive Communities

Development and implementation of public policy must not inadvertently lead to further concentration of poverty. Simply creating new affordable housing units is not enough. For too long, people with disabilities have been segregated in institutions, or in only the poorest neighborhoods, and in housing projects that congregate them with other disenfranchised groups. If people with disabilities are to be valued members of every community, we must pursue community development strategies that enable them to live and interact with others who do not experience disability, poverty, or other "special" characteristics or circumstances.

Separation of Housing from Supports

People with disabilities should not be required to reside in a particular location in order to gain access to either affordable housing or to needed supports, and should be able to select a service provider (or none at all) to support them in a home of their choosing.

Self Determination

People with disabilities must be supported in having a full array of choices about the neighborhood in which they live, the type of housing in which they reside and the supports that they receive. To the greatest extent possible, available funding for housing and community supports should follow the person. Housing subsidies must therefore be more available, and portable.

Affordable, integrated and accessible housing based upon these key principles is essential. The strength of our communities resides in the diversity of the people who live in them. It is imperative to assure that people with disabilities are woven into the fabric of every community.

Approved by The Arc Michigan Board of Director's in October 2019.

