

## **HOUSING POSITION PAPER**

Safe, affordable housing is a fundamental need for all citizens, yet it is not easily obtained, 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

(I reordered these two sentences)

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.

Development and implementation of public policy must not inadvertently lead to further concentration of poverty or segregation. 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.

### Separation of Housing from Supports

People with disabilities should not be required to live in a particular location 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 choice.

Providers of direct care/support should not be the owner or lease holder for an individual’s housing. People with disabilities need to have their name on the lease or deed to their home and have all rights and protections afforded to a renter or homeowner. In addition, people must have control of who comes and goes from their front door. Providers of direct support must not have any controlling interest in the housing of people served.

## Self Determination

People with disabilities, like everyone else, must have choices about the neighborhood in which they live, and control over the type of housing, with whom they reside, and the supports they receive. Available funding for housing and community supports should follow the person. Housing subsidies and other support 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 ensure that people with disabilities are woven into the fabric of every community.

Approved by The Arc Michigan Board of Director's in April 2025.