

Opening Doors Together 2024



Accessible Housing:

A Human Right

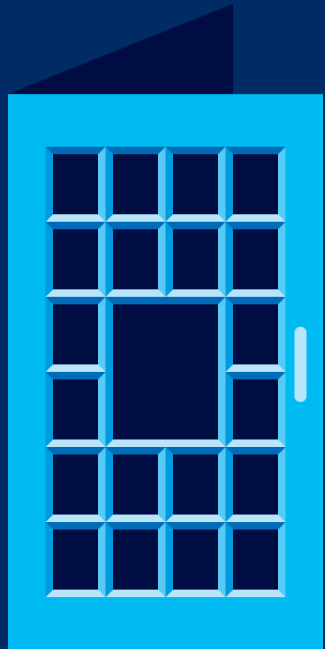
**Inglis Self-Determination Housing of PA
Statewide Housing Conference**

Presented By



In Partnership With





Housing for Individuals with Disabilities: Busting Myths, Providing Choices

Susan Rowell, Sara Crimm with Becca Hoover and Teri Brewer



Presented By **HIGHMARK** 
WHOLECARE.

In Partnership With 
pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Getting Your Own Place:

Myths and Facts

Part 1



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Funding

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Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3,095,416.00 (Three million, ninety-five thousand, four hundred sixteen dollars) with 100 (one hundred) percent funding by ACL/HHS. Council efforts are those of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



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What we will talk about today

- What is a Myth
- What is a Fact
- Housing Myths about people with disabilities
- Housing Facts about people with disabilities
- What choice means
- Types of Housing
- Action Steps
- Life Course Trajectory
- Housing Toolbox

Let's Get Started!

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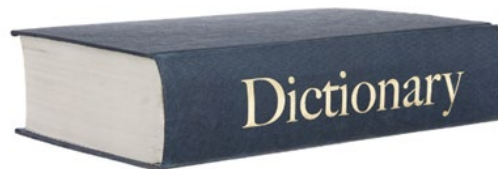
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What does the word Myth mean?

A **myth** is something people may believe, without proof.

Unicorns are a myth.

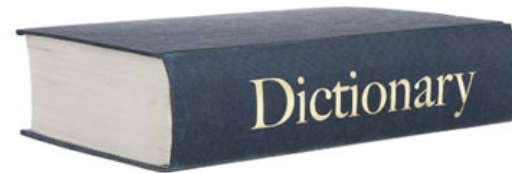


This is a picture of a dictionary, a book used to learn about words. We will show this picture when we explain what something means.

What about the word Fact?

A **fact** is something proven to be true.

Joe's shirt has short sleeves. That is a fact.



When we learn and know the facts, the myths start to disappear.

If you believe or think any of
these myths are true,

You are not alone.

Many people do.

We are here to bust the myths
and tell you the facts.

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Lived experience

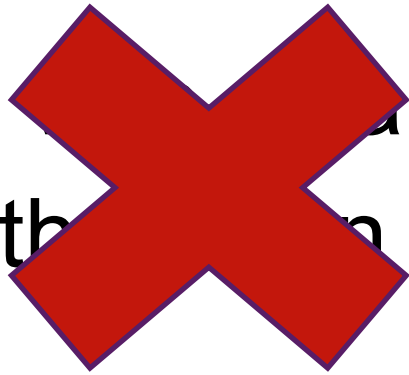
The stories we will share today are from people with disabilities living on their own, in the community.

The quotes are in their own words.

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Myth: People with disabilities cannot make their own decisions.



NOT TRUE!

Fact: People with disabilities do make their own decisions.



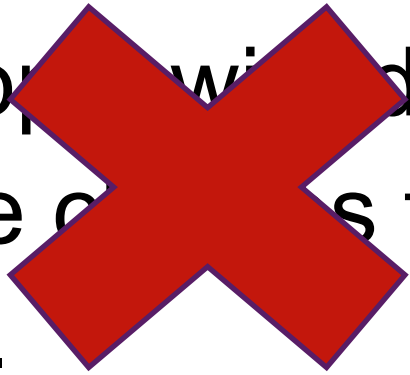
“I think people with disabilities **should** live independently, because we can do it. We have to push much harder, but we can succeed. I like living independently because I can do things for myself. I can do whatever I want during the day and night. I can talk to friends and relatives on the phone whenever I want. I make my own schedule.” Michael K., Philadelphia County

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Myth: People with disabilities do not make choices for themselves.



NOT TRUE!

Fact: People with disabilities do make choices for themselves.

What Choice means

To have options:

- That those options make sense for you and what you want
- You understand your options
- You may choose what works for you
- The people supporting you respect your choices
- You pick who helps you

What kinds of choices do you have about your day to day life?

“I paint my nails, I color, I go out shopping.”--
Jamie C., Bucks County



Myth: People with disabilities do not make their own decisions about where they live.

NOT TRUE!

Fact: People with disabilities do make their own decisions about where they live.

What is one thing that is wonderful about living in your own place?



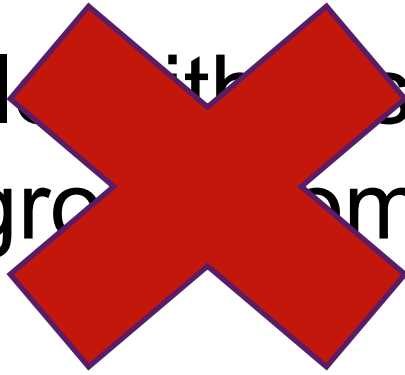
“Being independent. I don’t have to listen to anyone telling me what to do. I feel like I am a part of the community.”

Aldyn A., Philadelphia County

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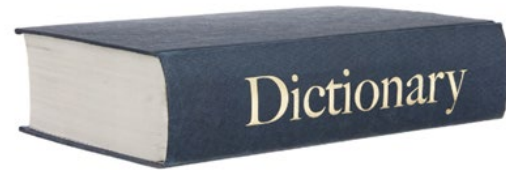
Myth: People with disabilities must live in group homes.



NOT TRUE!

Fact: People with disabilities have a choice of where they live.

A Group Home



- might also be called a Community Living Arrangement, or CLA.
- may be a house, townhouse, or apartment.
- has 24-hour staff support.
- can have 1 to 4 people with disabilities.
- is owned or leased by a provider.

In a group home

The provider:

- is an agency or organization that is paid to provide services.
- usually decides who lives there and where it is located.
- chooses, hires, and trains the staff.

FACT!

People with disabilities **do** have
a choice of where they live.
A Group Home is one of those
options.

What is one thing that is wonderful about where you live?

“[I like living in a group home because] there’s always somebody to talk to.”

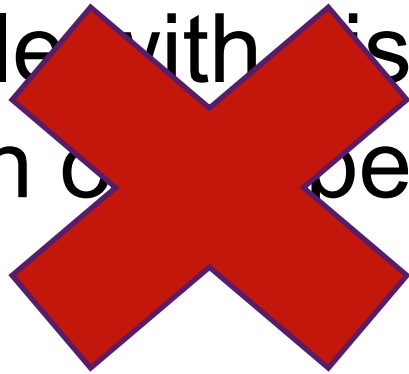
Jamie C., Bucks County



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Myth: People with disabilities must live with other people with disabilities.



NOT TRUE!

Fact: People with disabilities have a choice of who they live with.

What's one thing that is wonderful about living in your own place?



“I can do things in peace the way I want. I'm able to be in control of my life without being disrupted. I think it is a good thing about living on my own and having more space, more quiet time when I feel I need it. I do love to go out there and socialize, but I feel that living alone with no one else, it is good. I can invite who I want, I can have the freedom to go where I like and do my thing.”

Thalia D., Chester County

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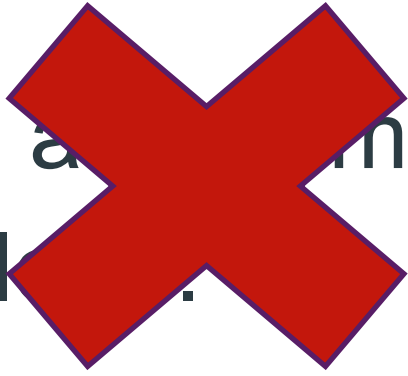
There are many kinds of housing for people with disabilities.

Here are some examples we thought of:

- Group Homes
- Renting
- Home Ownership
- Townhouses, apartments and houses in the community

**These are all options.
You have choices!**

Myth: I need a roommate, I cannot live alone.



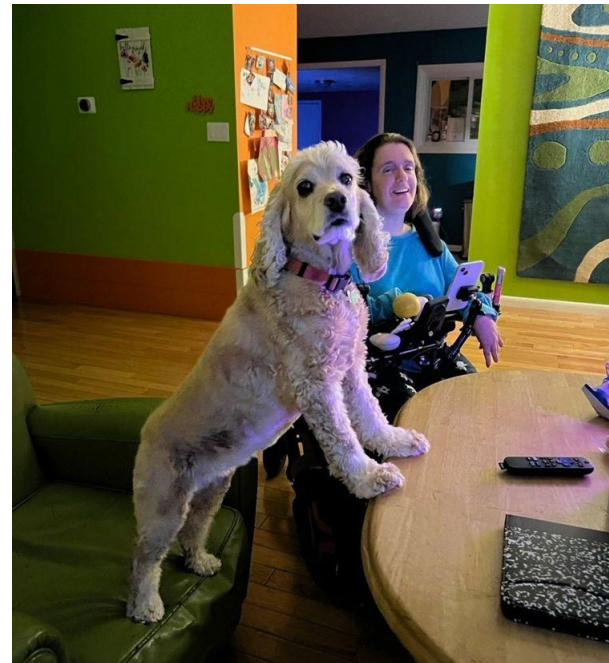
NOT TRUE!

Fact: You can choose to have a roommate or you can choose to live alone.



“We live together as a married couple in our own place.”
Jenny and David C.,
Bradford County

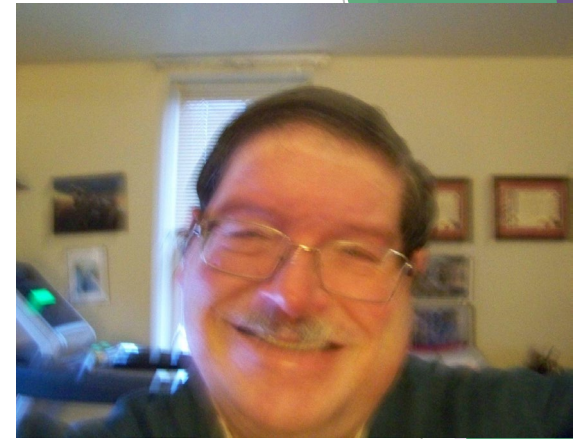
“I do not have a human [housemate], but I have a dog. I like being able to do my own thing and not bother anyone.” Alexa B.,
Cumberland County



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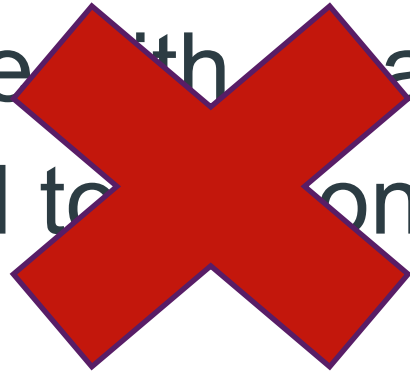
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“No [housemates]. Well, this is only a single-only apartment building.”--Thomas H., Cumberland County



“No housemates, I have my own apartment.”
Danessa M.,
Bucks County

Myth: People with disabilities cannot afford to live on their own.



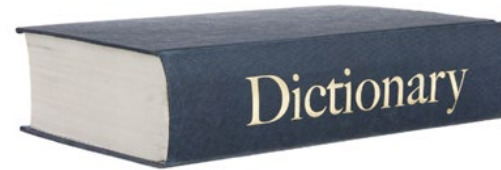
NOT TRUE!

Fact: There are many ways for people to afford to live on their own.



“Part-time job, SSI, and
a PA ABLE account.”
Alexa B., Cumberland
County

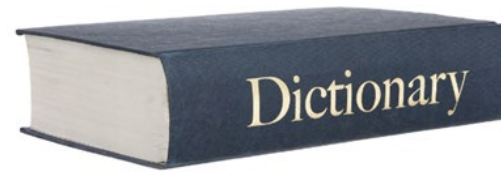
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



- Some people may get this government benefit.
- Information about SSI is in our Housing Toolbox that we will show you later.
- SSI monthly payments can be one way individuals with disabilities pay for their housing and expenses.



PA ABLE ACCOUNT



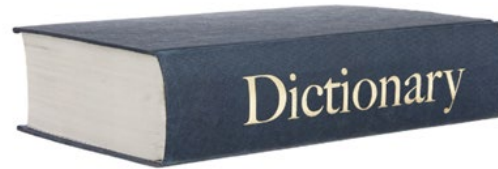
- A special savings account for people with disabilities.
- Information about PA ABLE Account is in our Housing Toolbox that we will show you later.





“I'm on Social Security, and I live in a Section 8 housing apartment.”
Thomas H., Cumberland County

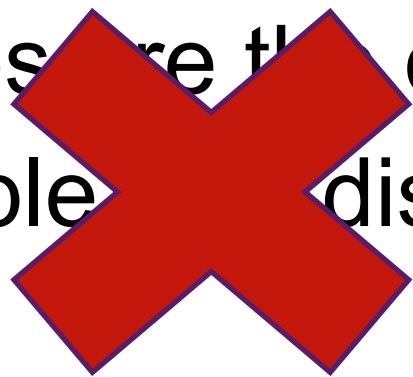
Section 8 Housing Choice Program



- This is a rental assistance program for low-income families, individuals with disabilities and the elderly.
- We have information about affordable housing in our Housing Toolbox.



Myth: Families are the only ones who can help people with disabilities get housing.



NOT TRUE!

Fact: There are lots of people who can help you get housing.

There are many people who may help you

Here are some people we thought of:

- Parents, brother, sister or other family
- Friends
- My Staff
- Supports Coordinator
- Behavioral health specialists
- Teachers and school staff
- Agencies you can connect with
- Real estate agent
- Local elected official
 - City council member
 - State representatives

You do not have to do it alone!

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Housing information is not always easy to get, we will provide resources at the end of this training to help get you started.

**In this presentation we have
busted some myths.**

**MYTH
BUSTED**

Let us review the facts

Fact: People with disabilities **do** make their own decisions.

Fact: People with disabilities **do** make choices for themselves.

Fact: People with disabilities **do** make their own decisions about where they live.

Fact: People with disabilities **do** have a choice of where they live.

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More facts

Fact: People with disabilities **do** have a choice of who they live with.

Fact: You can choose to have a roommate or you can choose to live alone.

Fact: There are many ways for people to afford to live on their own.

Fact: There are lots of people who can help you get housing.

What is one thing that is wonderful about living in your own place?

Elijah C., Mercer County

“I really like all of the space I have. There are several closets. Two of them are walk-in, big enough to walk around in a little. My apartment complex has an outdoor pool, which I used a lot this past summer. The grounds are nice to walk around, too.”



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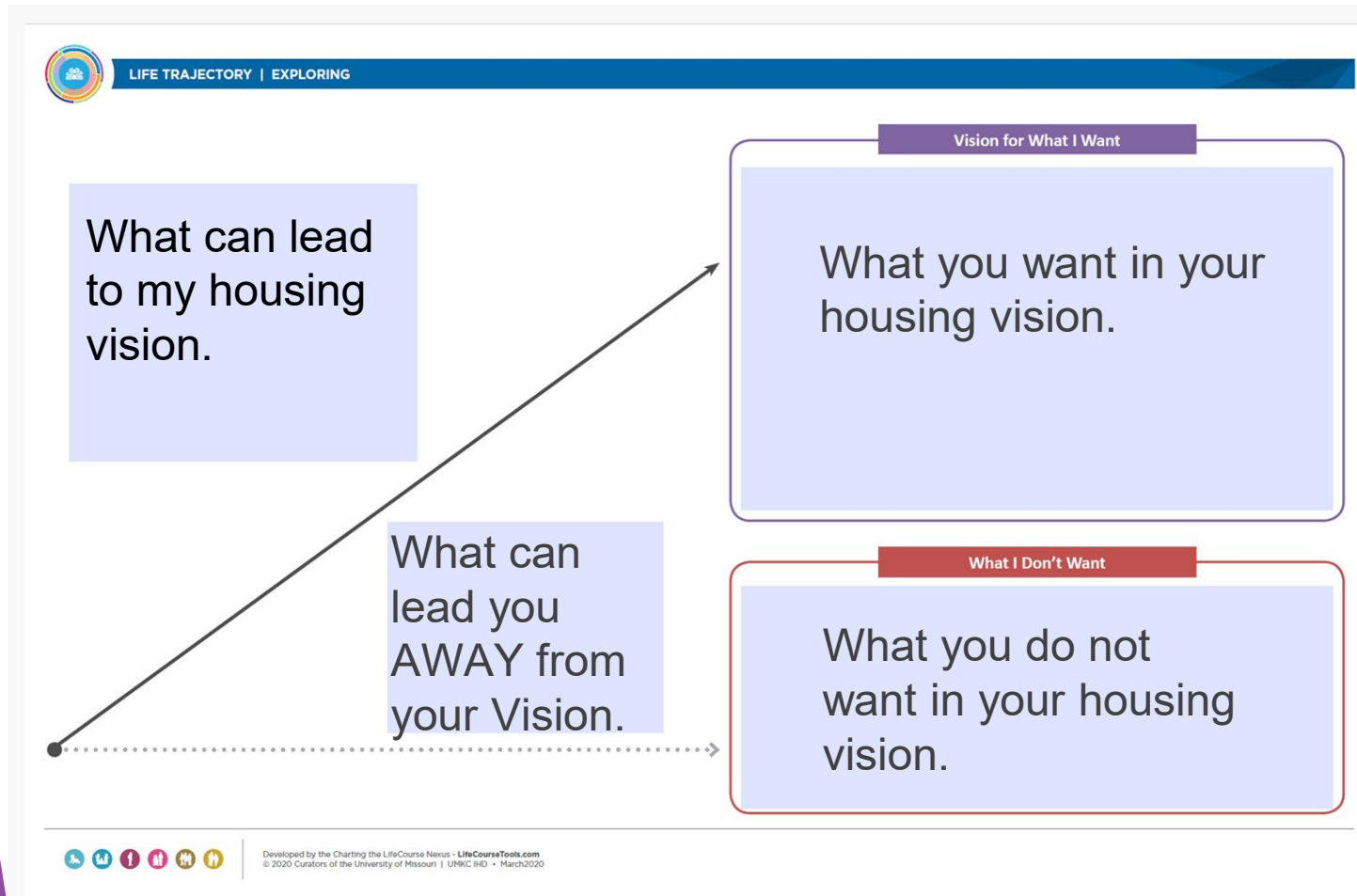
What to do next

- Talk to friends and family about your future
- Attend housing presentations
- Speak up about the facts you learned today
- Use the Trajectory from the Lifecourse tools for planning
- Open the Housing Toolbox

The Trajectory

- Is a planning tool you can use.
- Is a living document you can change anytime.
- Helps you write down what you want and do not want in your housing vision.
- You do not have to do it alone, ask for help.
- Share your Trajectory with someone you trust.
- Let's look at an example of the Trajectory.

One tool from the LifeCourse is called the Trajectory

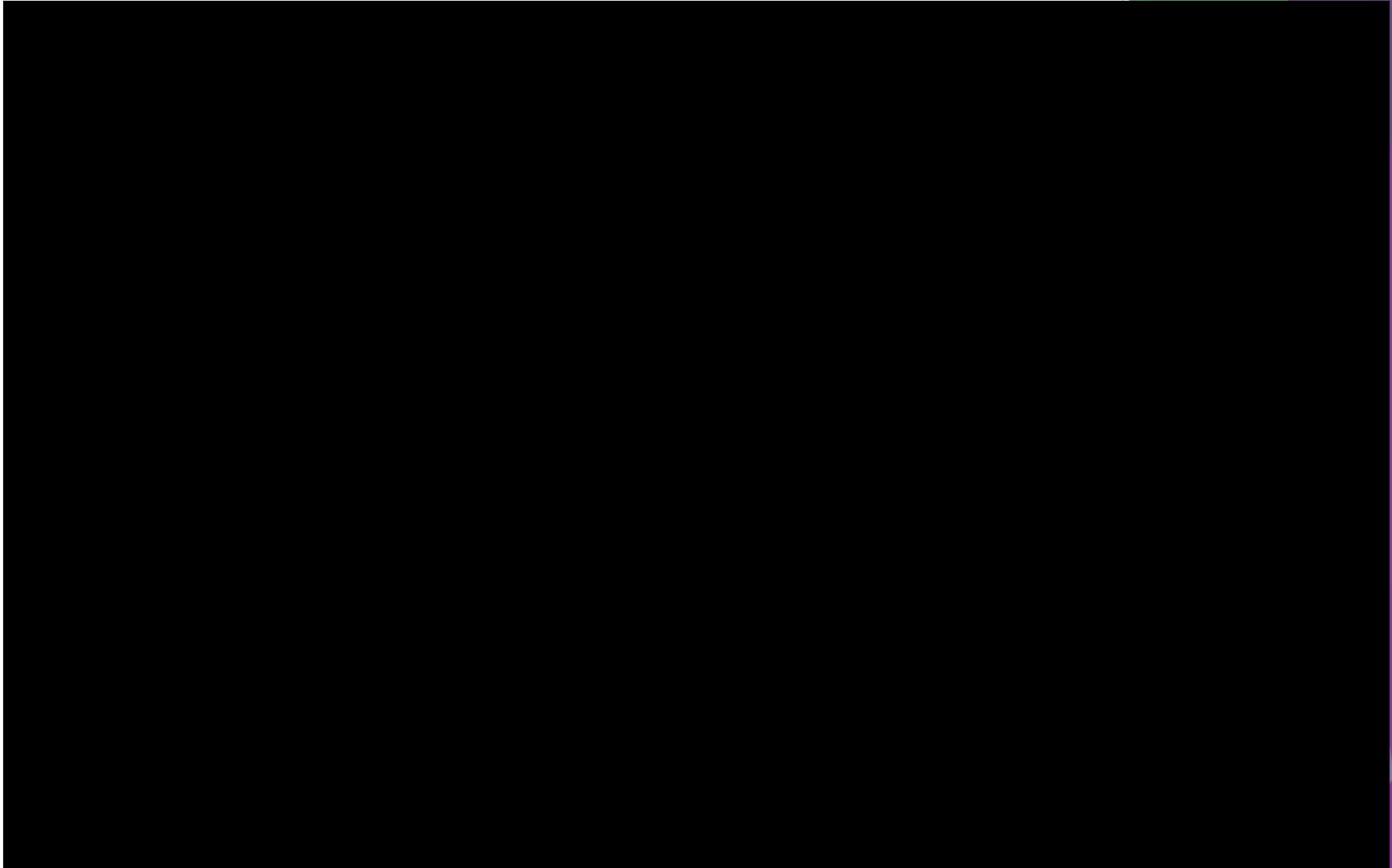


<http://www.lifecoursetools.com>

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Your housing toolbox



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**PLEASE WRITE ANY
QUESTIONS ON YOUR INDEX
CARDS AND WE WILL
ANSWER THEM AT THE END.**

Contact US:

<https://www.familiesccanphilly.org/contact>

<https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesCCANPhilly>

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Contact Us ⁽²⁾ :

Self Advocates United as 1, Inc.

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Meadville, PA 16335

Call 724 588 2378

Email info@sau1.org

On the web www.sau1.org

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What advice do you have for other people with disabilities who are thinking about getting their own place?



“I think it is very right that if someone with a disability wants to live on their own, become independent. I think it is a very important step in their lives.”

Thomas H., Cumberland County

**PLEASE JOIN US
VIRTUALLY FOR
PART 2 COMING SOON.**

You will get a flyer with a QR code that links to the Housing Toolbox we created.

We are also passing out index cards for your questions.

Please write your questions on the card and give the card to Sara.

We will answer questions if we have time at the end of the session.

Finally, please fill out our survey at the end of the session. We appreciate your feedback.



Housing Transition & Tenancy Sustaining Service (H.T.T.S.)



VALUES into action

OUR VALUES UNDERPIN EVERYTHING WE DO:

Adapting with you to live your life, your way

Respecting you and your choices

Dedicated to you and your ambitions

Kind to you without exception

Transforming services with you

Open minded to you

Accountable to you and yours





What Are H.T.T.S. Services?

H.T.T.S. stands for Housing Transition and Tenancy Sustaining services (H.T.T.S.)

A service offered in the Home and Community-Based Waiver through Medicaid

Available to individuals enrolled in the Consolidated, Community Living and Person/Family Directed Waiver

Allows for provisions of both direct and indirect services

Services are limited to 640 15 min. units (160 hour) per Fiscal Year

into action



Why Choose H.T.T.S. Services?

Participant driven

**Assistance with assessing
cost/affordability**

Understanding of the housing market

**Provides an individualized housing
assessment**

Assistance with connecting to resources

into action



What H.T.T.S. Can Not Provide...

Emergency housing

**Financial support for housing expenses,
move in costs, etc.**

Legal advice/eviction prevention

Immediate or temporary housing

Guaranteed results

into action



What H.T.T.S. Can Provide...

- Support to develop an individualized housing plan focused on the person
- Development of an assessment to assist with:
 - Identifying resources
 - Identifying support needs
 - Identifying skill building needs

into action



Pre-Tenancy Supports

- Based on an individualized housing plan we will:
 - Assist with housing search
 - Assist with completing applications for vouchers and housing
 - Assist with identifying housing resources
 - Ensure the housing identified is safe and move in ready

into action



After Moving: Tenancy Sustaining Support

- Help to identify when a behavior could jeopardize housing
- Provide education/training/reminders of tenant roles, rights, and responsibilities
- General guidance on how to be a good tenant
- Creating a crisis Housing Plan
- Troubleshooting possible Eviction

into action



Assistance to understand the lease/mortgage



Identify ways to connect with community resources



Assistance with housing recertification

**Tenancy
Sustaining
Support
cont.**



What will the service look like for me?

- Individualized - "Nothing about me without me", "Doing with, not for"
- Regular meetings with the Housing Resource Specialist
- A focus on current supports and identifying potential supports to help guide your housing journey



H.T.T.S. Services in Action

- "What do you think about having a home of your own?"



How to get started:

- Contact your Support Coordinator to request a service referral
- Meet with the Housing Resource Coordinator
- Agree to fully participate in HTTS service
- Have H.T.T.S. services authorized in your Individual Support Plan (ISP)

into action

Contact information

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beckah@viapa.org

Juwanna Scott, Housing Resource Coordinator

juwannas@viapa.org

Susan Rowell, Associate Director, Participant Directed Services

susanr@viapa.org

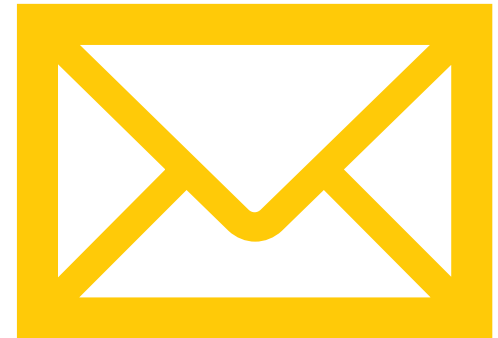
Pamela Zotynia, Participant Directed Services Director

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housinginfo@viapa.org

<https://valuesintoaction.org/>



Thank you for attending!

Thank you for attending this session! Please take a moment to fill out this survey
(Also available in your program book)



Accessible Housing:

A Human Right

