

Housing for People with Disabilities Resource Guide

By David Layne

Finding Local Housing for People With Disabilities

1. Ask families and organizations dealing with disability issues if they know of a local disability housing provider.
2. Check with state & county community mental health departments.
3. Check your state housing authority.
4. Check regional Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).
5. Google... local Fannie Mae lenders.
6. Google – local organizations involved with disability issues- ask them for housing contacts & resources (check local autism programs, cerebral palsy, ARC, Easter Seals etc...)

Tips for Marketing to Families or Individuals with Special Needs¹

- Assemble a local resource guide specifically for families who have children or other dependents with special needs that includes information on community resources, employment, transportation, and recreational, medical and educational facilities and services.
- Expand your web sites content. For example, list locations of accessible parks and top-rated medical facilities, as well as contacts for parent support groups, transition services for parents with teenagers, postsecondary education offering for students with special needs and supported employment opportunities. Also include information on local public transportation services that accommodate the disabled.
- Develop strategic alliances with local special-needs nonprofits organizations and support groups.
- Make this audience aware of your interest and capabilities in regard to their unique needs. Hold a home buying seminar on the resources your community offers the special-needs community, or volunteer to speak to support groups or at conferences for people living with disabilities.
- Be mindful of the accessibility and design of your office. For instance, make sure space between furniture and aisles can accommodate wheelchairs.

Special Disability Funding

- Fannie Mae – Home Choice Mortgage
- Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB) Grants
- USDA Mortgages
- Federal HOME Funds
- HUD 811- Up To 14 Units

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/disabilities/index.cfm>

- McKinney Vento Funds – Rental Housing Funds to End Homelessness

www.michigan.gov/mshda State Housing Authorities

Website Resources

www.HOMESCoalition.org Michigan charity devoted to bring attention to and raise funds for housing issues for people with disabilities. Grass roots effort- started by Realtors.

www.communityhousingnetwork.org Michigan Non-profit housing provider devoted to helping families with disabilities.

www.csh.org Corporation For Supportive Housing- National Housing Models

www.coilcdc.org San Antonio Texas – Barrier Free (Duplex) Housing Models

www.homenloan.com Example- Real Estate Broker –Coldwell Banker in California who has a web site tab for Disability Housing, and an agent specialist

www.homechoices.org Grass roots California firm specializing in housing for people with disabilities

www.virtualcil.net/cils/ Centers for Independent Living

www.bazelon.org Mental Health

www.pva.org Veterans

¹. Vogel, Nadine O. "Access for All." REALTOR Magazine Online. 1 June, 2007. 5 May, 2008
<<http://www.realtor.org/rmoprint.nsf/pages/sellingjune07>>