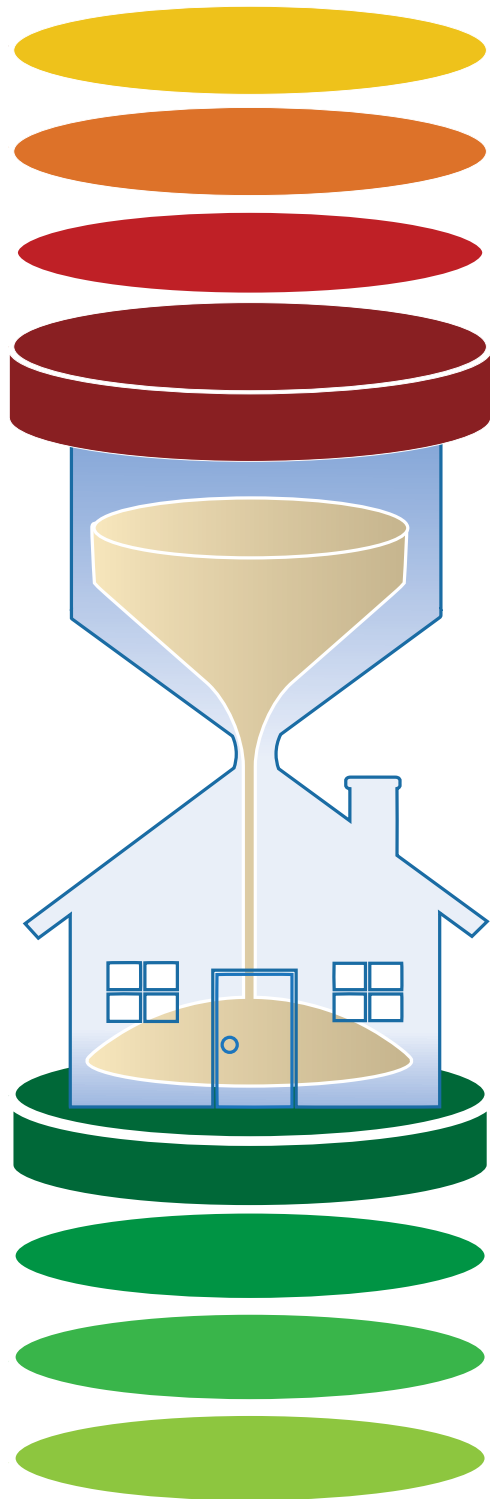


ENDING THE WAIT



An Action Agenda to Address the Housing Crisis Confronting Ontario Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Initial Report of the
Housing Study Group
(Developmental
Services Sector—
Ministry of Community
and Social Services
Partnership Table)

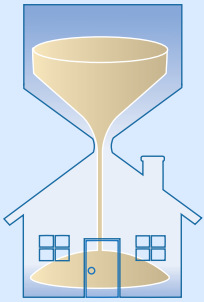
Housing Study Group Initial Report, September 2013

For more information, contact us at: housingstudygroup@autismontario.com

Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The Issues | 4 |
| Background and Process | 6 |
| Summary and Feedback from the Survey | 8 |
| Guiding Principles and Assumptions | 10 |
| Recommendations | 12 |
| Appendices | 15 |

THE ISSUES



Imagine if every single person in Gravenhurst, Ontario, population 12,000, was waiting for a place to live. In the meantime, each and every one imposes on the good will of family—in effect, “crashing”. Nobody could countenance that picture. It makes no sense.

Yet, that picture is a sad fact of life for 12,000 Ontario adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

They have been waiting, and continue to wait, for supported residences. The wait can be years, or even decades. It is 2013 and well past the time to assist these individuals, to put them on the path to a home of their own.

How did these vulnerable adults end up on this endless waiting list? Their parents watch themselves age and are sick with worry about the future for their sons and daughters. Why are there such barriers to providing them with the shelter and support they need?

Poverty

Far too many people with a developmental disability rely on social assistance or low wages to pay the bills. This means they cannot afford much of the housing that is available.

No Personal Supports

Even when there is an appropriate and affordable place to live, the support needed to live there isn't available or can't be paid for.

Government Policy

Many families can provide some financial help to the person they are supporting. They may be in a position to provide a house and, in some cases, even a portion of the personal supports required. Government fiscal constraints, however, have prevented as much forward movement as family contributions might otherwise allow. While the province has been able to provide some support dollars in some cases, limitations have meant that individuals have not been able to live as independently as possible. In other cases, no supplemental support dollars at all have been made available (witness the wait list of 12,000).

Queue Jumping

A housing system in crisis can only respond to crises. A crisis such as the one Amanda Telford experienced recently means someone else on the waiting list inevitably has a

lower priority and has to wait even longer. (Amanda Telford, a social worker and an Ottawa mother of a 19-year-old son with autism, dropped her son off at a provincial government office April 30, 2013 because caring for their son left both her and her husband ill and at the breaking point.)

Uncoordinated Government Approach

No one ministry can solve this crisis alone, however leadership and the mechanisms for departments to act jointly are scarce.

What are the consequences of the current situation?

Family caregivers burn out.

Imagine reaching age 60, 70 or even 80 as the primary caregiver for your adult son or daughter. Imagine the toll on your diminishing strength and health. They crumble and this only exacerbates a system that is crisis-driven.

Congregated and segregated housing reemerges.

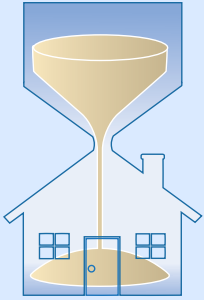
Many people who are managing to find housing and support are only finding it in larger segregated settings. Sometimes these are newly created housing options; other times there is an increase in the number of people living in an existing location. This trend is in direct opposition to decades of effort to desegregate.

Isolation and lack of community inclusion for the adult with a developmental disability becomes the norm.

The longer the person lives in a setting that doesn't support community inclusion and integration, the more difficult that transition will be when the elderly caregivers are no longer there for support.

The problem can no longer be buried. Ontario's Ombudsman is startled by the magnitude of the crisis in the developmental sector. A Special Committee of the Legislature is addressing the crisis. The Housing Study Group, a subset of the Partnership Table, is proposing an action agenda that will move this province forward in tackling this sorry issue.

BACKGROUND and PROCESS



The Ministry of Community and Social Service (MCSS) Partnership Table regularly brings together Queens Park policy planners and representatives from service providers and community, client, and family organizations. Consultations focus on the quality of Ontario services and supports for adults with developmental disabilities. To bring sharper and hopefully productive attention to a serious problem, the Partnership Table, in the fall of 2012, created a “Housing Study Group.”

The Study group brings together a diverse set of experiences and perspectives and includes the following people:

- Kory Earle (People First Ontario)
- Miriam Fry (Families Matter Co-op)
- Gordon Kyle (Community Living Ontario)
- Carolyn Morrison (Reena, Board of Directors; Faith & Culture representative, Partnership Table)
- Jocelyne Paul (Ottawa-Carleton Lifeskills, Inc.; OASIS [Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs] representative, Partnership Table)
- Garry Pruden (Community Living Toronto; MARC [Metropolitan Toronto Agencies Representative Council] representative, Partnership Table)
- Ron Pruessen (Opportunities Mississauga for 21+)
- Margaret Spoelstra (Autism Ontario)

The Ministry of Community and Social Services document *Opportunities and Action (2006)* describes the Ministry’s transformation agenda for the developmental services sector. That agenda is supported by six underlying principles which have been embraced by the Housing Study Group and guide the recommendations contained in this report:

- Citizenship
- Fairness and equity
- Accessibility and portability
- Safety and security
- Accountability, and
- Sustainability

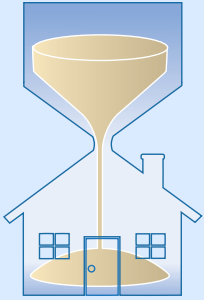
Our study has focused primarily on the first stage of a change strategy that will take 20 to 25 years to complete. The challenges we face are enormous. Ensuring that every person with a developmental disability in the province has a home of his or her own choosing and access to required supports will not happen immediately. We propose an approach for taking crucial “next steps” in this process. Our recommendations are designed to provoke action, inspire hope, and instill confidence in the future that lies before us.

Process of the Study

The Housing Study Group quickly concluded that it did not need to produce yet another report detailing the nature of the challenges confronting adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Existing research (some very recent in nature) makes it abundantly clear that a crisis exists. The real task was to identify ways of moving toward solutions – and the Group identified its primary responsibility as the conceptualization of an “action agenda.” On one hand, this involved the identification of key existing barriers to the creation of housing options and supports more proportionate to the province’s needs. On the other hand – of special significance – the Group sought to outline a range of practical goals and creative models for effective action, highlighting innovative ideas that can be useful to both the provincial government and families.

The Housing Study Group designed and administered a survey as an important tool in the identification of key barriers, models, and goals. The survey (see Appendices) was administered through the networks of the Partnership Table members. With responses received from eight of the nine MCSS regions, it was clear that province-wide distribution was achieved.

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM SURVEY



Overview

The survey undertaken by the Housing Study Group was designed to capture the commitments and thinking of families, individuals, and organizations across Ontario regarding innovative and emerging residential support initiatives. The belief was that these models could be used to inform decision making and be utilized to make meaningful progress on reducing wait lists – with particular attention to approaches that are creative, cost-effective, and responsive to the full range of needs among Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

Families supporting adult children with developmental disabilities consistently communicated their desperation to secure appropriate residential care. Insurmountable waiting lists, lack of transition planning for adolescents and young adults, and limited funding were reported as contributing to the “housing crisis” that families are experiencing.

The responses generated* by the present housing study survey were immediate and reflected a deep investment of time, thought, and resources. Families across Ontario are forming partnerships to develop, finance, and implement their own housing initiatives despite major challenges that involve a significant assumption of risk. It is therefore not surprising that 64% of the 45 initiatives submitted remain in the planning stages and are typically stalled due to finances. The fact that 17 of the initiatives have proceeded without incentive funding or calls for proposals from the Ministry attests to the level of commitment and desperation that exists.

Key Facilitators

A majority of the participants state that the “key partners” in developing and mobilizing their housing initiatives are other like-minded families, followed by agencies in the developmental services sector and organizations from other sectors or the private sector. Families are taking an active role in their community to ensure their children have a home and meaningful opportunities for inclusion.

As a result of unavailable and/or inadequate government support, families are pooling their resources to provide suitable housing for their adult children and others with similar behavioural, emotional, and social challenges. Proposals include the sharing of capital costs of homes, renovations, home management, weekly care and community based activities for their adult children. It is the absence of available housing and access to adult services that has bound them together. One participant stated that “the key to our success is the fact that we had no other choice but to figure out how to find solutions to independently house our children.”

* Analysis of the compiled survey data provided by Brooke Straith, Autism Ontario

The key factors reported as facilitating action were:

- Ability to connect with other families having similar needs and interests
- Families assuming an active role
- Family and community partnerships
- Creative and innovative thinking

The Housing Initiative Groups chart (Appendix C) shows the percentage of proposed housing plans using Supported Individualized Living (SIL), Group Residential Housing (GH), Home-ownership (HO) options and Respite categories.

Key Barriers

Families are often paralyzed by the lack of financial support from government programs, making it necessary to rely almost entirely on private/family funds for creative home-ownership initiatives. There is no primary source of funding, and families are concerned about sustaining the operation of their housing initiatives after they have been implemented.

MCSS, family and private resources, and other government resources were most frequently reported as the means for implementing residential programs. Participants reported attempting to access 2-3 types of funding from various sectors, ranging from a single source to four financial resources. Rarely did an initiative rely on one avenue of financial support, rather initiatives approached private, government and personal investors for financing. Taken together, participants are targeting different sectors, organizations and private family groups in hopes of meeting their financial needs. The Funding Sources chart (Appendix D) shows how the participants are financing or are planning to finance their housing plans.

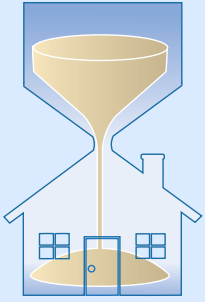
The key barriers to success most frequently reported were:

- Uncertainty of funding/funding sources to ensure sustainability
- The extent of investment of time and resources by families
- Meeting the highly individualized needs of the participants

Individuals in Need

According to the survey participants, the adults who are in need of appropriate residential programs across Ontario are to be found across the spectrum of developmental disability. The reported initiatives included persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), complex medical conditions, dual diagnoses, persons with non-verbal challenges, complex and offending behaviours, and persons with complex care needs (see the Population Selections chart [Appendix A]). It is clear that there are multifaceted and inter-related health, physical, and social care issues that need to be addressed by a housing strategy.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES and ASSUMPTIONS

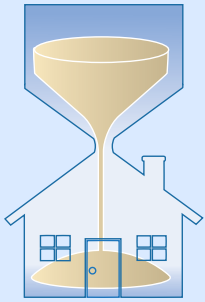


As the Housing Study Group discussed the components of an “action agenda,” we found ourselves consistently returning to a number of key principles and assumptions. We believe these should serve as bedrock for the steps to be taken in both the immediate future and over the longer-term:

- a. Actions should be driven by our commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which Canada has ratified; and consistent with all articles of the convention including article 19 which requires that the government: “Recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and to take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community by ensuring that:
 - i. Persons with disabilities have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement
 - ii. Persons with disabilities have access to a range of in-home, residential and other community support services, including personal assistance necessary to support living and inclusion in the community and prevent isolation or segregation from the community
 - iii. Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to persons with disabilities and are responsive to their needs.”
- b. Ontario must move beyond the crisis-driven system that has essentially produced the housing crisis now confronting adults with developmental disabilities and their families. This movement must begin quickly: many adults with developmental disabilities and their families have been understandably demoralized by years (even decades) of fruitless struggles to enrich lives, create independence, and lighten burdens. It will not be easy to counteract accumulated cynicism and despair – but serious new efforts can help to turn the corner toward hope and confidence.
- c. It is impossible to envision a quick solution to the housing crisis confronting adults with developmental disabilities and their families: while significant actions should be taken immediately, it is also necessary to think in terms of a ten to twenty-five year timeline.

- d. There is no single housing initiative that will satisfy the needs of a highly diverse population. As with the province’s population overall, adults with developmental disabilities and their families have highly varied needs and preferences—and meaningful progress toward solving the housing crisis will require purposeful encouragement of multiple initiatives and models of service.
- e. Responding to the critical housing needs of adults with developmental disabilities and their families should not be the sole responsibility of MCSS. Solutions will be of sufficient scale and effectiveness only if they incorporate a multi-layered design and shared responsibility for execution. Cross-sectoral partnerships should be a high and immediate priority, with MCSS taking the lead in devising strategies to foster cooperation with the provincial government by individuals and families, transfer payment agencies providing services, community organizations (e.g., service clubs and faith communities), municipalities, and private sector businesses and financial institutions (e.g., builders, technology firms, and mortgage institutions). Resulting partnerships will serve two key objectives: first, they will yield a “democratic dividend” in which a wide range of citizens (including those most directly affected by the current housing crisis) will play a meaningful role in designing and implementing solutions; second, they will expand the resource base from which solutions can emerge.
- f. While the Housing Study Group places strong emphasis on the need for “partnerships,” it also underlines its belief that the government will nonetheless have truly significant leadership and financial responsibilities in addressing the long-standing housing crisis confronting adults with developmental disabilities and their families.
- g. As government and partnership initiatives are designed, the Housing Study Group urges sensitivity to what it sees as several important guidelines:
 - i. More flexibility than is currently possible in the allocation and reallocation of resources, to encourage grassroots creativity
 - ii. Attention to the significance of transitions in personal planning, to allow experience, skills development, and life stages to impact arrangements and opportunities
 - iii. The timely investment of strategic resources, to maximize personal growth and outcomes
- h. Writing in 2013, the Housing Study Group has been impressed by the potential of technology for enriching efforts to meet the residential needs of adults with developmental disabilities — in part because of the ways in which approaches involving “smart house” tools (for example) can impact staffing requirements and costs, in part because of the ways such tools could expand opportunities for greater independence by those accessing new housing opportunities.
- i. As new housing options emerge, special care must be taken to ensure the same degree of longevity and security as existing group home living programs. This will allow individuals and families to cope with the sense of risk that will inevitably and very naturally come with innovation and exploration. Confidence in

new strategies will emerge over time – as programs prove themselves – but explicit efforts will be required to deal with accumulated cynicism and fear.



- j. Although the Housing Study Group is intensely concerned with making progress on addressing critical needs as rapidly as possible, it believes it is important to build solutions based on choice, individuation, and community inclusion as envisioned in the 2008 *Social Inclusion Act*. In times of restraint, there are pressures to return to solutions that involve “congregated” initiatives designed to serve larger numbers of individuals in single settings. While economies of scale might make such initiatives attractive, they would clearly run the risk of repeating mistakes of the past.
- k. The development of new initiatives for addressing the housing crisis should be sensitive to the fact that a person’s home and the support that he or she needs to live in that home are two different things. Where a person has neither a place to live nor the support that they require, both things must be provided in keeping with the individual’s unique needs — and neither of these things are of value if the other is not provided as well. Efforts aimed at dealing with either homes or supports need to be considered separately, but with the understanding of the interdependence that exists and that neither can be seen as sufficient as a single program or initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing Study Group is under no illusions regarding the difficulties inherent in solving the crisis confronting Ontario citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. It took many years for us to reach a pass as troubling as the one in which we find ourselves – and we cannot expect to eliminate all of the resulting pain overnight. **We must begin, however, and the beginning must be energetic and earnest.**

With these thoughts in mind, this report recommends adoption of **an action agenda** that combines immediate steps with clearly articulated long-range intentions: on one hand, an initial three-year plan; on the other hand, a roadmap delineating the broad outlines and trajectory of additional measures designed to unfold over a subsequent decade or more.

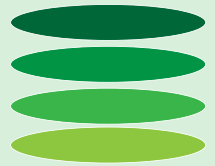
It should be emphasized that the Housing Study Group sees the long-term roadmap as a crucial component of its recommendations. Achievement of the three year action plan detailed within this report will have a powerful impact on the lives of adults with developmental disabilities and their families – by quickly addressing needs that have already produced despair and burnout. But ongoing efforts – in fact, several more three year action plans – will be necessary, as well. Children and adults with developmental disabilities will continue to mature to the point where greater independence is appropriate and required; family caregivers will continue to age and grow painfully over-burdened by 24/7 responsibility; and the province will continue to deserve pro-active policies that are more humane **and** cost-effective than the current system driven by individual and family catastrophe.

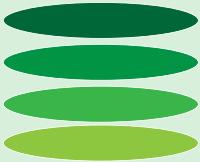
THE THREE-YEAR ACTION AGENDA

While the steps in this initial plan will not “solve” all of the housing problems confronting adults with developmental disabilities, their accomplishment will make a powerfully meaningful difference – both quantitatively and qualitatively. As well, resulting improvements will help build the momentum and experience needed to continue moving forward.

Year One

1. Given that an appropriate response to the issues described in this document will require leadership and action from many parts of government, oversight of a long-term strategy to address the issues should lie with the Cabinet and ultimate responsibility with the Premier.
2. The creation of a “Capacity Building Task Force” whose members will represent individuals and families, the provincial government, service providing agencies, builders,





technology firms, and local community planners. The mandate of the “Task Force” will be to:

- i. Develop a framework for capacity building projects that would include but not be limited to scope, strategy, components, relevance to the wait list, funding requirements, and inter-ministerial engagement.
 - ii. Recommend a minimum of 5 “initiative projects” that would address the housing crisis affecting Ontarians with developmental disabilities. At least three of the Task Force’s “initiative project” recommendations should be drawn from proposals captured by the Housing Study Group’s completed survey.
3. The Capacity Building Task Force should undertake its work with a strong emphasis on encouraging partnership approaches and plans. It should also identify a scorecard set of indicators for use in monitoring progress over the longer term to ensure targets are being met.

The recommendations should be presented for review and feedback by the Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table, with funding commitments announced by MCSS by the end of Year One.

4. A government/MCSS commitment to provide \$5 million of funding to help implement approved pilot projects in Year Two.
5. The creation of an inter-ministerial committee charged with ongoing consultation concerning the housing needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities. The present crisis is too great to be the responsibility of MCSS alone. The nature of the issues involved requires the sustained creative engagement of broader government expertise: reflecting research and front line evidence accumulating over decades, it is clear that crisis-solving abilities would be strengthened by the contributions of government departments dealing with Housing, Health Care, Education, Senior Citizens’ needs, and Citizenship — nor would it be sensible to leave Finance out of the joint efforts required.
6. MCSS preparation — within three months of the beginning of Year One – of a statistical summary of information on provincial housing needs gathered to date by Development Services Ontario (DSO). These statistics will be important in establishing a baseline for ongoing evaluation of progress and planning.
7. A government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for any adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 80 – if those care givers have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe.

8. On May 16, 2013, the Ontario Legislature passed a resolution to establish a select committee to investigate issues facing people with developmental disabilities and their families and to recommend actions that will address these issues over time. We recommend that this report be provided to that committee (once established) to inform its deliberations.

Year Two

1. Funding and initial implementation of the Capacity Building Task Force’s “initiative project” recommendations.
2. A multi-year plan of work from the inter-ministerial committee charged with ongoing consultation concerning the housing needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities: to be presented to the Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table by mid-year.
3. MCSS/government launch of an “Opportunity Fund”, inviting proposals from community groups and agencies designed to address the shortage of housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. A six-month window for submitting proposals should be provided, with a commitment for review and decision within three months (precise decision-making process to be determined after discussion by Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table). Emphasis should again be placed on partnership approaches and plans.
4. MCSS/government commitment to \$5 million in funding required for implementation of “Opportunity Fund” projects in Year Three.
5. A government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for at least 50% of adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 70 (i.e., those care givers who have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe).
6. The Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table should create a “Communication Strategy Study Group” — mandated to develop methods of publicizing the housing initiatives emerging as a result of the Action Agenda’s adoption. Since any number of these initiatives will involve new approaches, such publicity will help individuals and families become more familiar and more comfortable with developing opportunities.





Year Three

1. Implementation of “Opportunity Fund”.
2. Review and assessment of Task Force “initiative projects” by Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table and the inter-ministerial committee: MCSS/ government commitment to ongoing funding for those that have proven effective in addressing critical needs.
3. A government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for the remaining 50% of adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 70 (i.e., those care givers who have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe).
4. Reconstitution of a Housing Study Group by the Developmental Services Sector/MCSS Partnership Table early in Year Three, to undertake a Year Four review of progress made since the beginning the Action Agenda recommendations—and to prepare a new three-year plan based on consultations, experience, and new opportunities.

Beyond the Initial Three-Year Action Agenda

Specific initiatives for subsequent “action agendas” will be most appropriately identified in future years – by a new Housing Study Group, by the inter-ministerial committee called for in this report, or by other mechanisms. The **basic, inevitable need** for such subsequent agendas needs to be affirmed now, however.

It is also desirable to identify here the broad **goals** toward which subsequent action agendas should work:

1. Continual movement toward addressing the residential needs of all of the 12,000 people currently identified as on “wait lists,” through a steady and significant expansion of resources devoted to diverse programs and opportunities.
2. The creation of a housing/residential “system” for adults with developmental disabilities in which newly determined needs – of maturing generations – can be met in a reasonable, not unconscionable timeframe.
3. Continuous encouragement and support of new creative initiatives – with ongoing emphasis on the development of resource- and expertise-expanding partnerships
4. Continuous evaluation of those initiatives becoming operational.
5. Continuous emphasis on action as opposed to ongoing evaluation and transparent monitoring of progress.

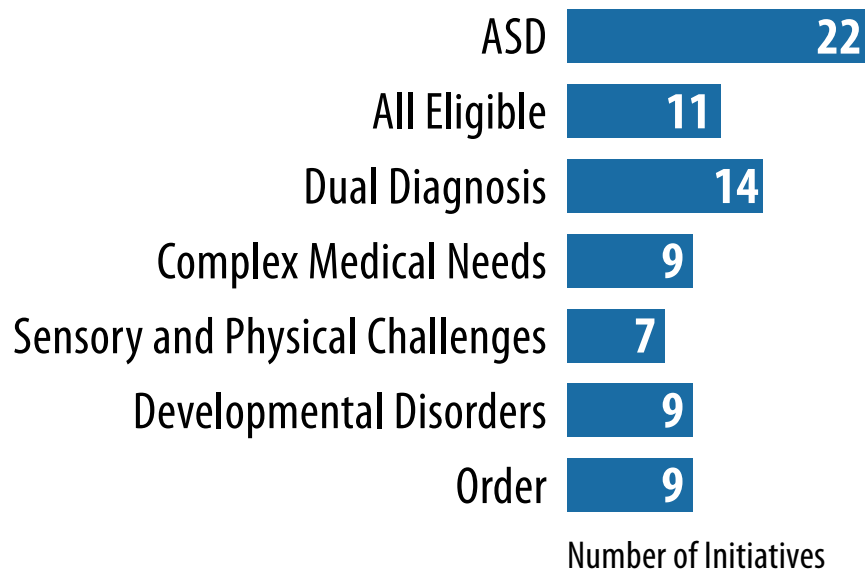
THREE-YEAR ACTION AGENDA OVERVIEW

| PHASE ONE OF A MULTI-YEAR APPROACH | | |
|--|--|---|
| YEAR ONE: APRIL 2013 – MARCH 2014 | YEAR TWO: APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2015 | YEAR THREE: APRIL 2015 – MARCH 2016 |
| | Complete implementation of the Capacity Building Task Force's 5 initiative projects (identified in Year One) | Implementation of "Opportunity Fund" projects (chosen in Year Two). |
| <p>"Capacity Building Task Force" to:</p> <p>Develop a framework for capacity building projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend 5 (minimum) initiative projects which will begin in 2014. • Create opportunities across the spectrum, but paying particular attention to adults with developmental disabilities, registered with DSO, whose parental care givers are over the age of 80. • Create a baseline and 'scorecard measure' for ongoing evaluation of progress and planning. | <p>MCSS/Government launch of "Opportunity Fund" which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will invite proposals designed to address the shortage of housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. • Proposals will be implemented in 2015/2016. | <p>Review and assessment of Task Force "initiative projects" by Developmental Services Sector/ MCSS Partnership Table and the inter-ministerial committee: MCSS/government commitment to ongoing funding for those proven effective in addressing critical needs.</p> |
| <p>MCSS/Government approval of \$5 million to fund the initiative projects, implementation of projects to begin in 2014.</p> | <p>MCSS/Government approval of \$5 million to fund the "Opportunity Fund" projects, for expenditure in 2015-16.</p> | <p>A government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for the remaining 50% of the adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 70 (if those care givers have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe).</p> |
| <p>A Government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for any adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 80 — if those care givers have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe.</p> | <p>A government/MCSS commitment to fund housing need solutions for 50% of the adults with developmental disabilities whose parental care givers are over the age of 70 (if those care givers have indicated to Developmental Services Ontario that they are seeking residential opportunities beyond the family home within a 6-12 month timeframe).</p> | <p>Reconstitution of a Housing Study Group (early in Year Three) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Year Four review of progress made since the beginning the Action Agenda recommendations. • To prepare a new three-year plan based on consultations, experience, and new opportunities. |
| <p>Create an inter-ministerial committee charged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultation concerning the housing needs of Ontarians with developmental disabilities. • Creating a 20 – 25 year work plan. <p>Provide report to the Select Committee investigating issues facing people with developmental disabilities and their families.</p> | <p>Inter-ministerial committee to present work plan to the Partnership Table: Fall 2014</p> <p>Create a "Communication Strategy Study Group" — to develop methods of publicizing the housing initiatives emerging as a result of the Action Agenda's adoption helping individuals and families become more familiar and more comfortable with developing opportunities.</p> | |

**Note: further expansion of details are contained within the report*

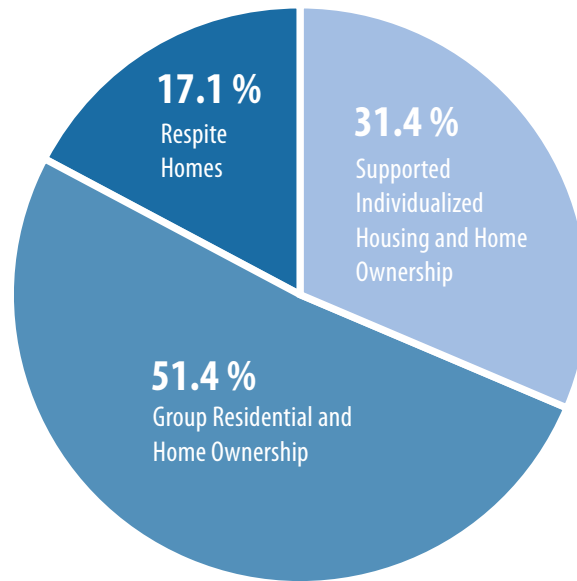
APPENDIX A

Population of Interest (Community Housing Toronto)



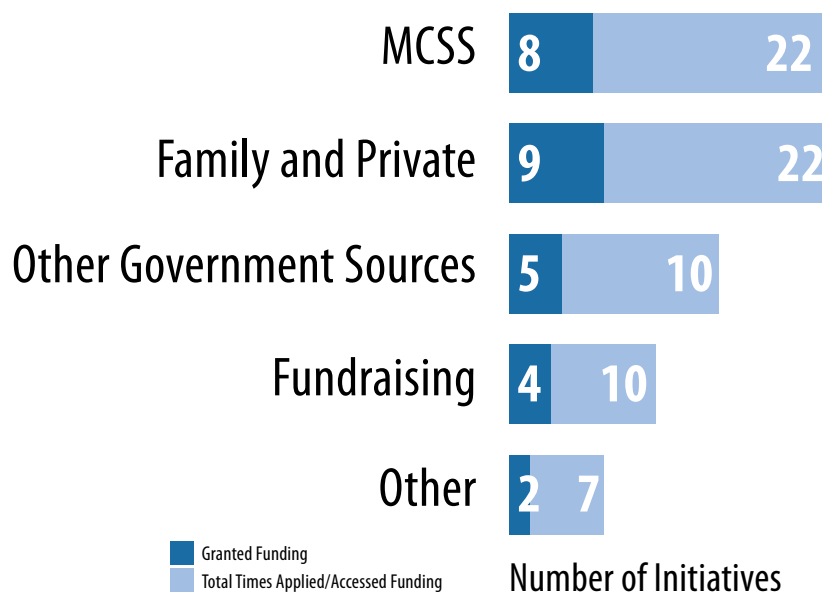
APPENDIX C

Housing Groups Classification of Housing Initiatives (N=25)



APPENDIX D

Funding Sources (Community Housing Toronto)



APPENDIX E

SURVEY

There are 12,000 adults with developmental disabilities seeking residential supports and opportunities across the Province of Ontario. Many have been waiting for more than a decade – and the “wait lists” grow longer and longer.

This issue has been identified as a priority for attention by the Developmental Services Partnership Table, which brings together senior MCSS policy planners and representatives from service providers, community, self advocates, and family organizations. To bring sharper and productive attention to this serious problem, the Partnership Table has created a “Housing Study Group” from its members representing networks of service providers and self advocate/family advocacy groups from across the province.

The Housing Study Group is anxious to tap the commitment and the innovative thinking of organizations, individuals, and families across Ontario—so send us information about existing initiatives that are helping to deal with the residential needs of adults with developmental disabilities, about proposals that are being put forward, or about concepts that might merit consideration and development.

We are compiling an overview of these innovative and emerging residential support initiatives. These models could be used to inform decision making and be utilized to make meaningful progress on reducing wait lists – with particular attention to approaches that are creative, cost-effective and responsive to the full range of needs among Ontarians with developmental disabilities.

So if you are aware of an innovative residential support initiative that you believe should be included in this work, please take the time to share it using the survey questions on the next page.

This can include initiatives that have been recently funded or submitted for funding.

The Housing Study Group is committed to produce its “action agenda” initial report by June, so please submit your input by April 15th, 2013.

Thanks for your interest and support.

1. Name of the initiative/idea:
2. Contact person and e-mail address:
3. Area of the Province (e.g., town, city, region)
4. Type of initiative:
 - Supported Individualized Housing (1 or 2 persons living together)
 - Group Residential Support (3 or more persons living together)
 - Family Home Based Support (include host families)
 - Cooperative Housing
 - Provision of Housing/Home Ownership
 - Other (please specify)
5. Please provide a brief outline of the initiative/idea:
6. Has this initiative/idea been implemented?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Comment
7. If your answer to question 6 above was yes, how many persons are currently being supported?
8. Is this support intended for a specific category(s) or group(s) of individuals?
 - No specific group

- Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Seniors
- Persons with a Dual Diagnosis
- Seniors
- Persons with Complex Medical Challenges
- Persons with Sensory or Physical Challenges
- Other (please specify)

15. Is there anything we missed? Please let us know in the space below. Thanks for your input.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

9. How were participants identified or selected?

10. Are there partnerships in place to support this service?

- Among Individual Families
- With Family Groups/Coalitions
- With agencies in the Developmental Services Sector
- With Organizations from Other Sectors
- With Private Sector Organizations
- Other (please specify)

11. How is this service funded?

- Ministry of Community and Social Services (direct funding or through an agency)
- Other Government Funding
- Family/Private
- Fundraising
- User Fee
- Other

12. Any information you can provide about the budget or costing for the initiative would be helpful:

13. Please identify what you consider to have been the “key(s) to success” in your journey to move forward with your initiative/idea?

14. Please identify the challenges you are facing which are most concerning and need to be addressed.

