

Hypothetical Resident Profiles

For the purposes of assessing housing models as options for a broad range of people with autism, the think tank facilitators developed hypothetical resident profiles. The profiles were composites of actual individuals. The goal of developing profiles was neither to stereotype autistic people nor to say that these profiles reflected the **full** range of people with autism. As it has been said, when you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism. Rather, it was both to facilitate a person-centered approach in the breakout groups that were assessing housing models, and to make sure a broad range of needs was addressed.

1. Alejandro has a part-time job and likes to go to the gym and work out. He generally does fine with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as eating and hygiene, but has difficulties with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as money, cooking, shopping, and cleaning. He is eligible for DDS individual support hours.
2. Binh has aged out of foster care. He has no job. He has been couch-surfing, but has run out of places to stay. He has not been able to get into a shelter because difficulties with executive functioning have made it hard for him to get to the right place at the right time to get a bed. He is eligible for DDS individual support hours.
3. Caiti, who is neurotypical, has a 13-year-old with autism. They have been evicted twice, once due to complaints from neighbors about her son's loud vocals, and once due to property damage (her son flooded the bathroom repeatedly, and twice punched holes in walls).
4. Dora can only afford \$500 a month in rent. Her family can give her another \$250 for rent. Dora has tried living with roommates several times, and it has always ended badly, either due to Dora's sensory issues, or to roommates taking her money. She is not DDS eligible. She is on CommonHealth.
5. Eddie has a high school diploma, and volunteers 10 hours a week at an animal shelter. He wants to live on his own. He has the skills to live independently, with a few hours a week of coaching. However, he is having difficulty getting into subsidized housing, due to his criminal record. He is eligible for DDS individual support hours.
6. Henry is turning 22. He has been at a residential school that has farm activities and has enjoyed these more than any other activities. He particularly likes working with animals. He is Priority 1 for DDS residential supports.
7. Justin is 21, has accepted a diploma, and is about to leave a psychiatric hospitalization. He cannot go home, as his family has a restraining order against him. His case manager feels he will not be able to cope in a shelter. He is eligible for DDS individual support hours.
8. Michelle likes spending time with people she knows well, but dislikes small talk, and needs plenty of quiet time alone to destress. She has a lot of independent living skills, but can panic if something unexpected happens, like a clogged toilet, a smoke alarm going off, or a stranger friending her on Facebook. She is not DDS eligible. She is on MassHealth.

9. Nancy is fond of listening to the Spice Girls and doing adaptive yoga. She has complex medical issues (including uncontrolled seizures, pica, mitochondrial decompensation, and extended episodes of catatonic posturing during which she won't eat), as well as maladaptive behaviors. Sometimes her medical issues can present behaviorally, and, even when the medical issue is resolved, the presentation can continue as a learned behavior. She is Priority 1 for DDS residential supports. Her parents are very concerned about keeping Nancy safe, and would like her to live near them, but cannot physically care for her themselves.

10. Rosa loves weaving and bowling, and lunch dates with a former baby-sitter. She has no maladaptive behaviors, but she also has no sense of danger, and cannot cross a street independently. She is unable to shower independently. Her communication issues interfere with her ability to express and receive information, especially with strangers. She is Priority 2 for DDS residential supports.

11. Sanjay recently finished his degree at UMass Lowell, commuting from home and taking 2 classes at a time. He has just received a Section 8 voucher. His family is very concerned about his ability to maintain tenancy, as he has a history of hoarding. He is not DDS eligible. He is on MassHealth.

12. Terrell loves to swim and ride his bike. He has extreme maladaptive behaviors (biting, head-banging, stripping in public) that are triggered by anxiety and OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder), or by eating foods to which he has an allergy or an intolerance. He uses visual supports. He will entirely self-isolate if he doesn't live with others, refusing to leave the building, but he also needs private space he can retreat into. He is Priority 1 for DDS residential supports.