Possible approaches to improving access to affordable supportive housing for people with autism

	Advocacy	Policy/Regulatory	Legislative
Short-term	Advocate on the local level for Local Housing Authorities to prioritize persons with disabilities for Section 8 vouchers	Department of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) could disseminate information to local housing authorities about prioritizing persons with disabilities for Section 8 vouchers as a best practice	Modify the MassHealth Personal Care Attendant program to cover drop-in services for cueing and prompting
		MassHealth could create an online repository for members to upload copies of critical documents needed to complete housing applications, such as a birth certificate, Social Security card, and state ID card.	
Long-term	Advocate on the local level for vocational high school programs that allow students to graduate as both a Registered Behavior Technician and a Certified Nursing Assistant; training should also cover the use of communication systems and visual supports	The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) could create a specialized group home model serving the most vulnerable individuals with complex medical and behavioral needs using highly trained staff	Require that a percentage of housing funded through the Qualified Allocation Plan and/or the Facilities Consolidation Fund serve DDS clients who do not require an institutional level of care
	Advocate with Shared Living provider agencies to create a pipeline of Shared Living providers for reverse Shared Living (where the housing is a permanent home for the individual), possibly by working with college programs in human services or nursing, where providers only commit to a year	Education about the full range of affordable and subsidized housing programs could be included as part of the curriculum for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Transition Specialist Endorsement, as could training in lesser-known benefits, such as Adult Foster Care, Adult Family Care, and the Personal Care Attendant program. Training could cover ABLE accounts and the importance of having a good credit score to be able to utilize a housing voucher	Require a percentage of units in new multi-family rental housing to include the most commonly needed environmental modifications
		Provide training in autism to Options and Shine counselors at Aging Service Access Points and Councils on Aging and to staff at Housing Consumer Education Centers	
		DHCD could develop additional design guidelines that will meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to obtain and sustain tenancy in supportive affordable state funded housing units.	

Access to housing Access to appropriate supports Navigation assistance

Updated 2024 to reflect legislative approval of accessory dwelling units and free community college. www.autismhousingpathways.org