Autism Housing Pathways offers …

Family and individual training and support

Turning 18 checklist: This checklist provides a list of steps to complete when your family member reaches adulthood to maximize available services and supports.

Thinking about housing: This presentation is "Housing 101" for families. It explains how to combine public funding streams with private funds to create housing models. (This presentation can be hosted by a group for a nominal fee and customized in length from 1-2 hours.)

Applying for housing: This presentation walks families through how to apply for affordable and subsidized housing. (This presentation can be hosted by a group for a nominal fee and customized in length from 1-2 hours.)

Learning about housing: This is a 5-part virtual workshop in which families are guided in working through a housing manual that will help them to determine what housing options might be appropriate for their family member. We host this Zoom workshop twice a year; there is a cost to families.

www.18section8.org: This website walks families through every step of the application process for the Section 8 Centralized Waiting List, the EOHLC (formerly DHCD) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and a host of other affordable and subsidized housing programs.

Sec. 8 sign-up assistance: For those **18 and older** not currently on the Sec. 8 waiting list, and wishing assistance to sign up, Autism Housing Pathways can provide virtual assistance. Family members who are guardians may also sign up their family member. There is no cost to families when done through one of AHP's institutional members. (Organizations may become institutional members of Autism Housing Pathways for $1,200/year.)

Family consultation: Autism Housing Pathways can provide families with a single free Zoom voice call of up to 30 minutes to discuss their individual situations. Free 50-minute virtual appointments are available but must be scheduled via one of our institutional members. Additional fee-for-service consultation is available, including assistance with completing a broad range of housing applications.

Person-centered planning: Housing-related person-centered planning is available for a fee.

Family Action Meetups (FAMS): A monthly opportunity for families to get together on Zoom, learn about two housing models per month, and chat with one another in depth. There is a $5 charge.

Housing workbooks: AHP offers three workbooks designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities shape a housing vision. They are available at the 8th grade, 1st grade, and social story/picture sticker level, respectively. They may be downloaded for free from our website.

Visual supports: Visual supports for self-care and household activities may be purchased and downloaded from our website. Step-by-step written and picture directions are both included.

Life Skills Library: A playlist on the AHPhousing YouTube channel that provides video direction for performing basic living skills.

A Place of My Own: An online course that provides the background individuals need to find a place to live, live as independently as possible, maintain their home, and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant.

Autism design techniques – A cheat sheet: These quick tips draw on the design literature and the experience of Autism Housing Pathways members.

Resources for staff development

Training videos: "Learning about reinforcement" (12 minutes), "Learning about visual supports" (22 minutes), and "Learning about sensory regulation" (23 minutes) are free videos available on our website that give a basic overview to anyone supporting a person with autism. Each video has a short, multiple-choice pre- and post-test, and the sensory regulation video is paired with a list of sensory break ideas and resources. Another video, on the characteristics of autism, is planned. These can be easily incorporated into orientation for new hires and are appropriate for English Language Learners.

Recommended staff trainings: A list of off-the-shelf, inexpensive, autism-specific training programs suggested for different categories of staff, including direct support staff, assistant house managers, and house managers.

Visual supports: Visual supports are a great tool for community-based residences needing basic visual supports at a very low price point without using staff time for development.

Transition, agency, and health professionals

Applying for housing: Waiting lists for affordable and subsidized housing can be as long as 15 years, and young people should sign up as soon as they turn 18. This presentation covers the various forms of affordable and subsidized housing, and how to help individuals with the application process. (This presentation can be hosted by a group for a nominal fee and customized in length from 1-2 hours.)

Housing professionals

Helping tenants with autism rent successfully: This presentation outlines the characteristics of autism, how they may manifest in a housing situation, and strategies housing professionals can use to help their tenants succeed.

Research

Housing needs and desires in the Massachusetts autism community: This presentation, available on our website, outlines the results of our survey of autism families.

Implications of IDEA headcount data for estimating the current and future population of young adults with ASD: This analysis indicates that in 2025 the number of 12-37 year olds with autism in Massachusetts may be about 28,413, of whom about 17,428 would be 18-37 years old.

Supported housing demand for autism in Mass. estimated at 600+ units per year: Based on autism incidence and special education data, this is AHP's estimate of the need for supported housing beyond what is funded through the Department of Developmental Services and MassHealth.

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Participants are encouraged to consult with appropriate qualified professionals regarding their specific situations and decision-making needs.