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Council on
Developmental
Disabilities



Put Me at the Center of My Housing Plan!

Moderator:

Carol Napierski, Senior Vice President for Innovation & Development, NY Alliance



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Meeting the Panelist!

Drew Webster:

***Communications and Grants Coordinator, NYS Council
on Developmental Disabilities***

Seth Greenman:

Co-Director of NYHRC & Consultant, NY Alliance

Chris Liuzzo:

Consultant, NY Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation



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Put Me at the Center of My Housing Plan!

The WHY:

link to the video : <https://youtu.be/DWAK56t3fRQ>

What is the CDD?

Mission: The mission of the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD) is to enhance the lives of New Yorkers with Developmental Disabilities and their families through programs that promote self-advocacy, participation, and inclusion in all facets of community life.

- There is a Council on Developmental Disabilities in every State/Territory in the United States

How we work:

- CDD receives a small allocation of federal funding to do grant programs in New York State.
- Programs must align with the CDD's State Plan.
- Programs are voted on and monitored by Council Members, 60% of which are people with developmental disabilities and family members of people with DD.

Today we will discuss the CDD's investments in housing and our partnerships with the NY Alliance to support independent living and community-based housing options.

The CDD's Housing Portfolio

In alignment with the CDD's mission, we focus on supporting people with DD and their families to find housing options in the community.

- **Regional Housing Collaboratives:** Regional Housing Collaboratives were established to bring together experts in housing, and to leverage community resources to expand community-based housing options for people with DD. This initiative also established a Master Housing Navigator in every region of NYS.
- **Innovative Technology in Housing Initiative:** This pilot program worked directly with people with dd by assessing their needs and providing enabling technology to act as a natural support, assisting individuals to live in community-based settings
- **Housing Resources for Independent Living:** Develops a centralized website featuring resources on non-certified housing options. The website helps people with DD and their families explore supports such as paid neighbors, live-in caregivers, benefits and more.
- **Bilingual Housing Navigation:** Works with community-based organizations who serve communities whose primary language is not English, embedding person-centered principles and resources in their approach to housing.

Regional Housing Collaboratives

Grantee: New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation (NY Alliance)

Project Duration: 5 years, starting in 2019

Project Impacts:

- Housing Collaboratives established in every region of NYS, bringing together providers, developers, municipal reps, and more.
- 29 people with DD were supported by Master Housing Navigators to move into non-certified settings, with 11 more completing their housing journey after the program's conclusion.
- Riverview Lofts, a Long Island development set-aside 10 units of housing for people with DD through their participation in the Regional Housing Collaborative.

Impact Videos:

- [Housing Solutions for People with Developmental Disabilities: The Role of the Housing Navigator – YouTube](#)
- [Housing Solutions for People with Developmental Disabilities: A Success Story](#)

Innovative Technology in Housing Initiative

Grantee: Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)

Project Duration: 3 years, starting in 2021

Project Impacts:

- WIHD partnered with the NYS TRAIID Program (Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities) provides access to assistive technology for New Yorkers with disabilities
- 3 TRAIID sites participated:
 - Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center (SAIL)
 - University at Buffalo, Center for Assistive Technology
 - Suffolk Independent Living Organization (SILO)
- Supported 13 people with DD in accessing technology giving them greater independence in their homes.

Impact Stories:

- [Determined to Do It Herself • N&R Spotlight](#)
- [Better Living Through Technology • N&R Spotlight](#)

Housing Resources for Independent Living

Grantee: New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation (NY Alliance)

Project Duration: 5 years, starting in 2023

Project Impacts:

- The New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation unveiled the New York Housing Resource Center (NYHRC) website in January of 2025.
- The program is currently refining the website, developing new materials, and educating people with dd and their families on using the website and accessing community-based housing.

Project Website:

- [New York Housing Resource Center | Resources for Individuals with I/DD](#)

Bilingual Housing Navigation

Grantee(s): Sinergia, Project Ready, CIDA, Center for Family Support,, New Beginnings

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Impacts:

- Students from Sinergia, Project Ready and CIDA successfully completed the Housing Navigation Course in the Fall/Winter of 2025
- Center for Family Support and New Beginnings are currently wrapping up
- Post course activities include community trainings, events, workshops, and webinars and translation of materials.



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New York Housing Resource Center



Innovative Housing Projects



Balancing Incentive Program Grant 2015



*Report to the Housing
Task Force*

Statewide & Regional Housing Collaboratives Grant 2019–2023

- **Funded by the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (now called the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD))**
- **Regional Housing Collaboratives**
- **Master Housing Navigators**
- **Five-year housing pilot**
- **Develop education and resources on non-certified housing**
 - **Statewide Learning Institutes**
 - **Connect on Housing**
 - **Technical Assistance**



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Search our website...

SEARCH



About

Resources ▾

Regional Map

Glossary

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New York Housing Resource Center for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

<https://nyhrc.org/>

NY Housing Resource Center



9 resource categories
Over 45 unique topics
Over 400 individual resources

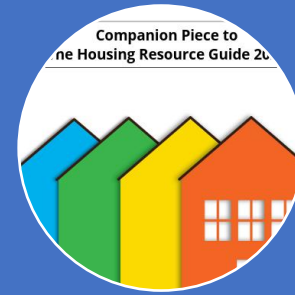
Your Guide to Housing



**Housing
Journey
Podcast**



**Housing
Resource
Guide**



**Companion
Piece**



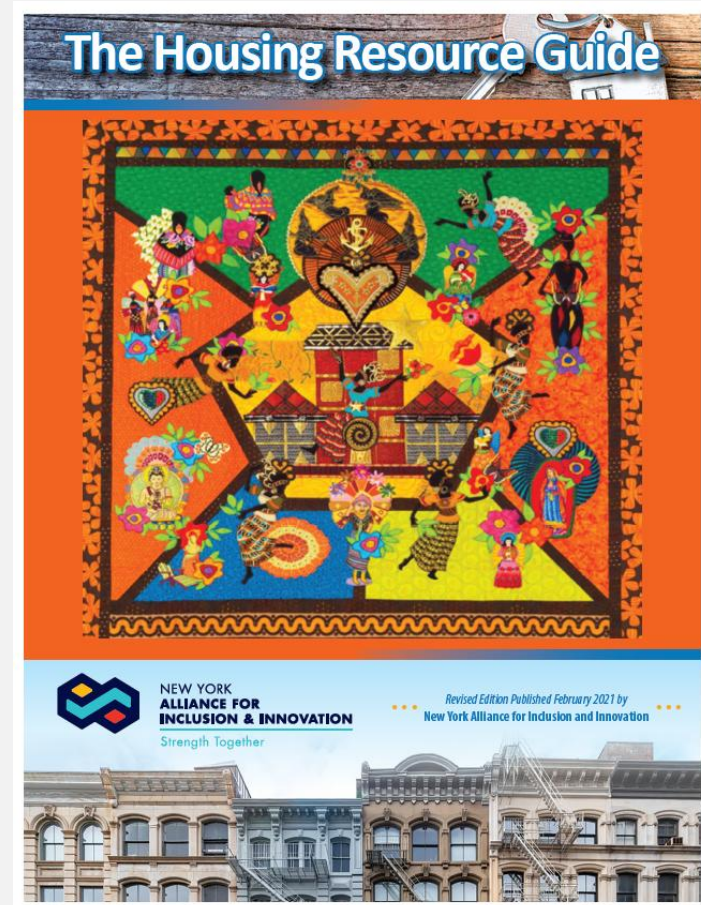
Housing Journey Podcast

- **Short audio sessions**
- **Three seasons**
 - **Housing planning topics**
 - **Triumphs and challenges of living in your own place**
 - **Person Centeredness**



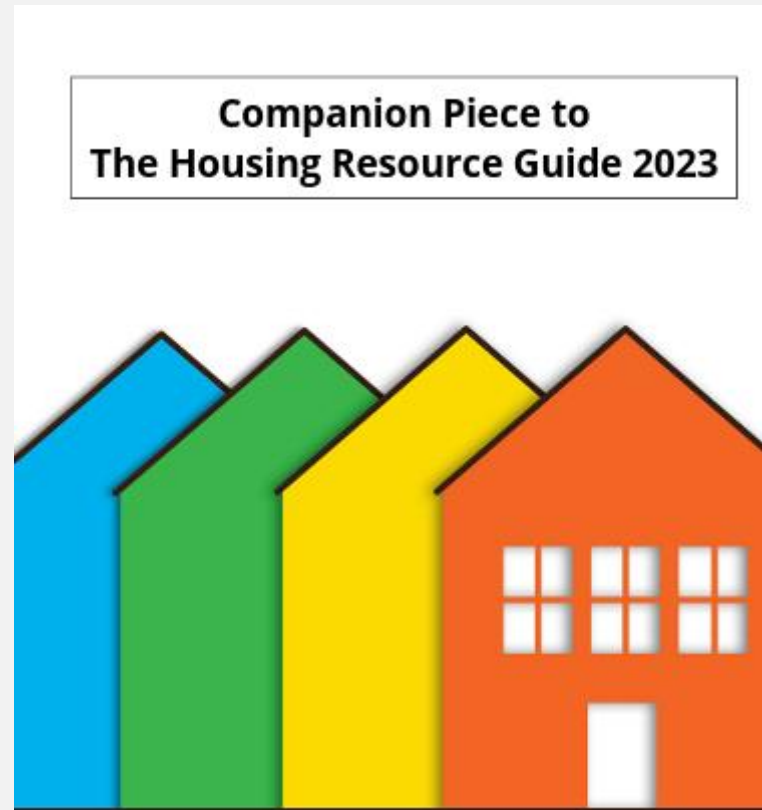
Housing Resource Guide

- **Guide to understand the systems and options for housing.**
 - **Person-Centered Thinking**
 - **Certified & Non-Certified**
 - **Types of Housing**
 - **Creating a Housing Plan**
 - **Transition**
 - **Sustaining**



Companion Piece

- **Brings everything together**
 - **Housing Resource Guide summaries**
 - **Aligns to Housing Journey Podcast episodes**
 - **Highlights more resources on NYHRC**
- **Record your key takeaways, thoughts, and questions**



Next Steps



- **Bookmark and Share**
www.NYHRC.org
- **Explore resources:**
 - **Your Guide to Housing resource collection**
 - **Resource categories**
- **Sign up for NYHRC E-News mailing list**

Post-Session Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5R7RJKQ>



**Home is the Heart
of Shared Living**
An International Gathering

Home | Home Is The Heart Of



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Shared living is about relationships with vulnerable people, whose personhood has often been denied and who have been seen as “the other”.

How do we promote and protect these relationships?

How do we tell the story of genuine relationships between “valued persons” and persons often seen as incapable of being in relationship?

George Fleischner



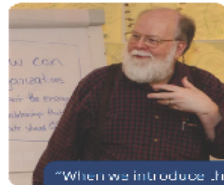
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DEDICATING SEASON 3 TO JOHN O'BRIEN

MORE IS POSSIBLE! A PERSON-CENTERED QUEST WITH MYSTERY, WONDER, INVENTION AND DEFIANCE



"When we introduce the idea of 'person', we introduce the notion of mystery."

People are not problems to be solved. They're a mystery to inspire wonder."

John O'Brien

The [Housing Journey podcast](#) was created to explore the housing experiences and challenges faced by people with I/DD. Season 3, featured within the Your Guide to Housing toolkit, focused specifically on person-centered supports and the ideas, stories, and experiences shaping this work.

Season 3 is dedicated to John O'Brien—a visionary, teacher, consultant, mentor, and steadfast ally whose influence shaped the NY Alliance for decades. John passed away in 2025, yet his voice continues to guide our work. He appears as a guest on two episodes, making this dedication especially meaningful.

Each of the 17 episodes, typically 15 to 20 minutes in duration, features a special guest exploring some aspect of person-centered supports. Some are well known across the globe. Others do not have that fame. But all have long and rich experience, are deeply immersed in this work and speak to it with eloquence. They are thinkers, writers, practitioners, persons who receive supports and family members.

This series is not a "how-to" of person-centered planning and methods. Instead, think of it as a story about truth, history, heart, self-examination and resistance.

Oh...and person, mystery and wonder.

Scan Here to Listen & Subscribe



This Season's Episodes Include:

- 1) **Dr. Beth Mount:** Person-Centered Planning: Historical Perspective & Future Work
- 2) **Dr. Beth Mount:** The Evolution of Person-Centered Planning
- 3) **Lynda Kahn & Jack Pearpoint:** Creating Person Centered Spaces
- 4) **Lynda Kahn:** Exploring the Heart of Person-Centered Planning
- 5) **Jack Pearpoint:** Power of Imagery in Unlocking Potential
- 6) **Kirk Hinkelman:** Person-Centeredness: Asking More of Self
- 7) **Carol Blessing:** Person-Centered Planning Principles
- 8) **John O'Brien:** Exploring Real Wealth in Person-Centered Work
- 9) **John O'Brien:** Real Wealth
- 10) **Hope Leet Dittmeyer:** Organizational Leadership and Person-Centered Planning
- 11) **Beth Gallagher:** Organizational Culture, the Community & Person-Centered Work
- 12) **Carol Blessing:** Core Principles of Person-Centered Work
- 13) **Mika Green:** Exploring Asset-Based Community Development
- 14) **BJ Stasio:** Breaking Free From Boxes
- 15) **Danyetta Najoli:** Embracing Cultural Humility
- 16) **Baturu Mboje:** Person-Centered Engagement
- 17) **Chris Liuzzo:** Hearing Arcs and Themes

The [New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation](#) developed and produced the Housing Journey podcast with support from a grant funded by the NYC Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD).



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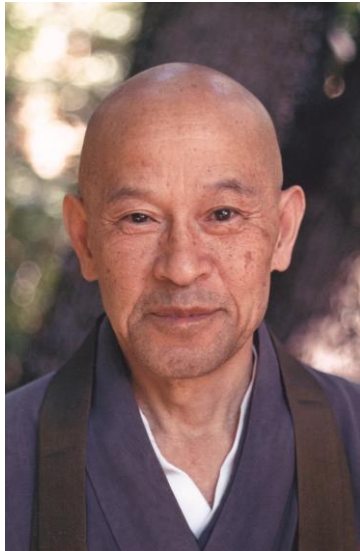
“My life does not fit in a drop-down box.

That box leaves out the mystery of my story.”



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Shunryu Suzuki

In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's there are few.



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MATTINGLY

EDGE



Nothing is Pre-Determined

Blank Slate

Person-Centered Planning is Not an Event...It Is
A Way of Being



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Work is Interior

Turn the Beam of Inquiry Inward

Person-Centered Planning



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Unleash a person's story...no exceptions

Hear the unheard

Make the invisible visible

Deep listening



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Longing

Invention

Justice

Resistance

What More is
Possible



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New York's Paid Neighbor Origin Story

THE PICTURE THAT EMERGED FROM THE CONVERSATIONS

- Sue to live in her own apartment, with no one else in the four walls.
- A “really neat” woman to live as a “paid neighbor” in a co-located apartment to provide support, fun, energy, and relationship; Sue would not “share” this support person with others.
- Overnight support provided, as necessary, by the “paid neighbor.”
- Traditional shift staffing evenings and weekends to supplement the paid neighbor.
- Apartments to be located in a quiet neighborhood but with access to amenities.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET*

Paid Neighbor Stipend	\$ 3,600
Direct Support (.75 FTE)	\$ 25,000
Non Personnel Services	\$ 8,500
Rents for Two Apartments	\$ 17,000
Total	\$ 54,100

Total annual cost of Sue's support
in the congregate setting:*

\$78,684

*Excluding administrative overhead and day services costs.





Closing Thoughts

The Soundtrack of Connie and Jim's Life

“It's an experiment...the agency is willing to support this petri dish, our living experiment.

We are building a very, very, very fine house”

Keys to Life