# Transition
## TENNESSEE

# Local Housing Groups

Housing groups are agencies that promote resources and provide supported opportunities for individuals with disabilities to live independently.

## What services or resources does this agency provide?

The services provided depend on the agency. Some groups provide residences where individuals with IDD can live and flourish. Other housing groups provide more indirect services that are useful in living an independent life.

## What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

There are community homes and group housing available through the state of TN, though there is not enough housing to meet the demand and people are often on waitlists for extended amounts of time.

## Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

Costs vary by housing group and by federal funding status.

## For which students might this agency be appropriate?

Students who are interested in independent living opportunities should research housing groups in their area to see if it would be a feasible option for them in the future.

## Who is eligible to receive their services/supports and when?

Eligibility varies by housing group, so check with your housing group to determine eligibility requirements.

## What is the referral process? What documents are needed?

The referral and application processes vary by housing group. Contact your local housing group to seek more information on the application process.

## What is the family's responsibility?

The family should contemplate factors that are important to them as they help their child find housing. These factors might include: proximity to family, finances, religious affiliation, onsite medical staff, facilities and amenities, etc. Families could tour group homes to ensure that the home is a right fit for their child.

## What is the student's responsibility?

The student should consider what factors are important to them as they transition to becoming more independent by living in a group home. Some of the important factors to consider might include: proximity to family, finances, religious affiliation, onsite medical staff, facilities and amenities, proximity to job, etc.

## What is the responsibility of an educator?

The educator can share information about the local housing groups with the student and family. The educator should emphasize that it is often challenging to be accepted into a housing group because waitlists can be so long.

## How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- The teacher can share information and resources about local housing groups with the family when the transition process begins so that parents keep it in mind as they plan for their child's future.
- Have a representative from a local housing group speak to students about the independent living options available in their area.
- Consult with a representative from a local housing group to seek information on independent living skills necessary to live in their group housing. The IEP team can make goals related to those specific skills if the student will be living in a group home.

## What questions should I ask of my local housing groups?

**Where can I learn more?**
Visit the government community homes (east, west, middle TN) website at: https://www.tn.gov/didd/divisions/community-homes.html

- What types of disabilities does your housing group serve?
- Is there some type of financial assistance available to live in this group home?
- Is there on-site medical personnel at this home?
- What prerequisite independent living skills does my son/daughter need to have to live in this housing group?

## Additional contact information:

Below is a list of a few group homes available in the 3 regions of TN, though this list is not comprehensive.

- Visit the website for West TN housing at: http://srvs.org/community-living
- Visit the website for Middle TN housing at: https://www.ourplacenashville.org/
- Visit the website for East TN housing at: https://sunrisegroup.org/locations/TN#state