

**Ministry of Children, Community  
and Social Services**

**Ministère des Services à l'enfance et des  
Services sociaux et communautaires**



Program Policy Implementation Branch  
Community and Developmental  
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October 24, 2018

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Service Managers (MMAH)  
Regional Directors (MCCSS)

**FROM:** Christine Kuepfer  
Director, Program Policy Implementation Branch  
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS)

Jim Adams  
Director, Housing Programs Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)

**SUBJECT:** Connecting Adults with Developmental Disabilities to Housing  
Support

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Last year, our ministries sent a joint memo which encouraged greater collaboration to address the housing needs of adults with a developmental disability. Building on that memo, we would like to refresh contact information for resources, and provide additional information in the interest of supporting individuals with a developmental disability.

Just over 76,000 people in Ontario have developmental disabilities. A developmental disability is a life-long condition that affects a person's intellectual, social, behavioural and/or physical development. Generally, people with a developmental disability:

- Have limited intellectual capabilities
- Need support with daily living
- Have a range of support needs that may become more complex over time
- May have secondary medical conditions or physical challenges
- May have concurrent mental health issues, referred to as dual diagnosis.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) recognizes adults with a developmental disability as one of the groups to be considered by Service Managers when developing housing and homelessness plans, as referenced in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's *Policy Statement: Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans* (s. 5.2). Better connections between local sectors can ensure that people with developmental

disabilities are supported and considered when planning for the housing and homelessness system.

Regional Offices are requested to please share Housing Service Manager contract information (see Appendix 4) with DSOs and Housing Coordinators.

*1) Community Program Managers, MCCSS Regional Offices (Appendix 1)*

Robust connections between local sectors will ensure that people with developmental disabilities are considered in planning for housing resources. Service Managers, MCCSS Program Supervisors and/or Community Program Managers are encouraged to hold introductory meetings and where possible, quarterly meetings to strengthen information-sharing about housing resources for individuals with developmental disabilities. Appendix 1 provides contact names, phone numbers, and email addresses of MCCSS Community Program Managers in five provincial regions (Central, East, North, Toronto and West).

*2) Developmental Service Offices (Appendix 2)*

Located in nine offices across the province, Developmental Services Ontario offices (DSOs) are the single point of access to the Developmental Services system. DSO "Resource Days" help families learn about the developmental services sector and potential resources. Service Managers and DSOs are encouraged to work together so that events and information fairs, such as "Resource Days," include presentations on housing information for individuals with developmental disabilities. Appendix 2 is a list of the nine Developmental Services Ontario offices located across the province.

*3) MCCSS Housing Coordinators (Appendix 3)*

Housing Coordinators are a central resource for connecting adults with developmental disabilities to housing support. Housing Coordinators work with adults with a developmental disability and their families/ caregivers to share information about housing resources in the community. Housing Coordinator positions are located at Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) offices across the province. Service Managers are encouraged to make connections with their local Housing Coordinator (see Appendix 3) to facilitate information on housing which is relevant for individuals with developmental disabilities.

*4) Service Managers (Appendix 4)*

In Ontario, the delivery of housing and homelessness-related services is a local responsibility, administered by 47 Service Managers – 37 are Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) that consist of upper and single-tier municipalities and 10 are District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) that are located in northern Ontario. SMs are responsible for establishing policies that promote affordable housing development by setting the local vision for housing (e.g., through local 5-Year Housing and Homelessness Plans), contributing to and coordinating housing funding, developing and administering housing and homelessness programs, managing Service Managers' social housing stock, and reporting on progress in addressing needs and outcomes.

DSOs and MCCSS' Housing Coordinators are encouraged to make connection with their relevant Service Managers (see Appendix 4) to facilitate information sharing and develop appropriate solutions on housing-related matters concerning individuals with developmental disabilities.

Many people with a developmental disability who have applied for Developmental Services have low to moderate support needs and may benefit and qualify for social, affordable and supportive housing initiatives that are offered by Service Managers across Ontario.

### *MCCSS' Service System Planning*

MCCSS Service System Planning operates at regional, local, and individual levels. The membership of Service System Planning tables includes DS sector stakeholders as well as an opportunity to invite cross-sector partners to participate in relevant planning discussions, including health partners. Service System Planning brings together multiple ministries, other levels of government, and community-funded supports.

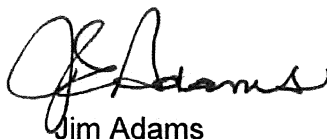
MCCSS regional offices and Service Managers are encouraged to find opportunities for Service Managers to participate in relevant Service System Planning table discussions, to support communication and consideration of housing resources as part of collaborative planning for individuals with a developmental disability.

We look forward to increased collaboration to improve housing outcomes for adults with developmental disabilities.

Thank you,



Christine Kuepfer



Jim Adams

c.

Joe Passaretti, Assistant Director, Service Delivery and Supports Branch, MCCSS  
Christine Hughes, A/Director, Community Supports Policy Branch, MCCSS  
Gloria Lee, Director, Ontario Disability Support Program Branch, MCCSS  
Michelina Longo, Community Program Manager, Central Region  
Ann-Carol Hargreaves, Community Program Manager, Central Region  
Margaret Storey, Community Program Manager, East Region  
Steve Novosedlik, Community Program Manager, East Region  
Jennifer Jeffrey, Community Program Manager, North Region  
Jeannette Belanger, Community Program Manager, North Region  
Rhonda Clarke, Community Program Manager, West Region  
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Attachments (4)

- Appendix 1: Community Program Manager Contact List
- Appendix 2: Developmental Service Offices Contact List
- Appendix 3: MCCSS Housing Coordinator Contact List
- Appendix 4: Service Managers