

# Housing Task Force

The Developmental Services Housing Task Force was created to tackle housing issues faced by adults with developmental disabilities and their families. It's the first-ever cross-sector task force with this mandate.

The task force is chaired by [Ron Pruessen](#) (PDF), who has been actively involved in advocacy and organizing work in the developmental services sector for the past 15 years.

In March 2015, the Task Force welcomed proposals for innovative housing solutions that could be replicated in other areas of the province. It reviewed 80 proposals submitted from developmental services agencies, family organizations, municipalities and health agencies.

The first group of projects have now been selected by the Developmental Services Housing Task Force to help expand the range of housing options and choices for adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

Check this webpage, future issues of [Spotlight](#) or our [social media channels](#) for updates for a second call for proposals coming later in 2015.

## Learn more

- See the [list of projects](#).
- Visit the Housing Task Force on their [Facebook page](#).

## Selected projects

The 12 recommended projects below have been approved for funding totaling an investment of \$3.47 million over two years.

Funding recipient	Project
<b>Bridges to Housing – City of Toronto</b>	This demonstration project will provide housing for homeless individuals with developmental disabilities who may also have other behavioural and mental health needs. This project would help this underserved group access supportive, individual housing solutions where no program currently exists. Funding would be used for staffing costs and community-based treatment and supports. Partners with the City of Toronto include <b>Community Living Toronto</b> and <b>InnerCity Family Health Team</b> . Funding for this project is up to \$964,736 over two years.
<b>Community Hub Residential Model – Community Living</b>	In collaboration with the <b>Campbellford Memorial Hospital</b> , staff in a centralized hub will provide supports to aging

Campbellford/Brighton	individuals with developmental disabilities in the surrounding rural areas to support their continued independent living. Additional funding will be accessed through the Geriatric Assessment Intervention Network and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Funding for this project is up to \$398,973 over two years.
<b>Continuing Housing Innovation in Windsor-Essex County</b> – Windsor-Essex Innovative Housing Project Advisory Group	The project will provide funding to support new residential arrangements for adults with complex needs. This creative partnership includes The <b>City of Windsor</b> , <b>Community Living Windsor</b> , <b>Windsor-Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports</b> and the <b>Windsor-Essex Family Network</b> . Funding for this project is up to \$870,888 over two years.
<b>Heartland North Perth Project</b> – Habitat for Humanity	This is a first-ever partnership between <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> and <b>Community Living North Perth</b> to create an affordable housing option for adults with developmental disabilities with low incomes. Habitat for Humanity will build a semi-detached house, with project funding used for staffing to provide the individuals with sufficient supports to live independently in their new home. Funding for this project is up to \$60,000 over two years.
<b>Housing “D”</b> – Partners for Planning (Toronto)	<b>Partners for Planning</b> has developed a detailed long-term plan for an individual with complex developmental and medical needs to live in a self-contained area in a family home. The plan is a partnership between support workers, agencies, family members and government to provide the necessary supports for the individual to live and participate in the community. Funding for this project is up to \$99,910 over two years.
<b>Housing is a Community Issue</b> – Durham Association for Family Respite Services (Durham Region/Leeds and Grenville County)	In this unique collaboration, a dedicated housing coordinator will help a number of families use typical community resources (e.g., banks, realtors) to find and secure the kind of housing that would best suit the person with the developmental disability, recognizing the family resources available and calling on personal networks for ideas and connections. Learnings will be shared with other families and agencies. Partners include <b>Brockville Association for Community Involvement</b> , <b>Community Involvement Legacy Homes</b> and <b>Intentionally Built Community</b> . Funding for this project is up to \$266,387 over two years.
<b>Housing Trust Project</b> – Citizen Advocacy Ottawa	Partnering with <b>Families Matter Cooperative</b> , Citizen Advocacy Ottawa will examine how aging parents of individuals with developmental disabilities can develop housing trusts for homeownership and property management. This project responds to the need for information on how to bequeath homes to adult children with developmental disabilities. Funding for this project

	is up to \$30,000 over two years.
<b>Imaginative Living Options –</b> Community Living Brant (Brantford)	Partnering with the <b>City of Brantford Housing Department</b> , this project will look at how to best use existing resources in a variety of non-traditional ways, such as matching a senior living alone with someone with a developmental disability. Funding for this project is up to \$212,417 over two years.
<b>Intensive Individualized Support Project –</b> Montage Support Services (Toronto)	This project would explore housing options for individuals with complex behavioural/mental health needs. <b>Montage Support Services</b> will partner with <b>Family Service Toronto</b> to provide a residential support arrangement that gives those involved emotional support as well as building their daily living skills and routines. Funding for this project is up to \$151,546 over two years.
<b>Neighbourly Homes –</b> Community Living St. Marys and Area	In partnership with the <b>City of Stratford</b> , the <b>Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation</b> and <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> , this project will introduce a “supportive neighbour” who monitors and supports an individual with a developmental disability on a 24/7 basis helping them to continue living as independently as possible in their own home. The supportive neighbour receives affordable housing and a small per diem amount in exchange for providing support. Funding for this project is up to \$84,900 over two years.
<b>Person-directed Facilitator Project –</b> Lanark County Support Services (Smiths Falls)	Lanark County Support Services will partner with <b>Developmental Support Services, Lanark County and Lanark County Social Housing</b> to provide residential supports to adults with developmental disabilities with complex medical needs. The individuals will each live in their own units within an existing building. A supportive tenant will live in the building and a full-time community support facilitator will support them in the community. Funding for this project is up to \$143,000 over two years.
<b>Peterborough Transition-Aged Youth Transitional Housing Pilot Project –</b> Canadian Mental Health Association	Every year, approximately 1,000 children with a developmental disability turn 18 years old. This demonstration project will provide young adults the opportunity to learn daily living skills such as cooking and banking, so they are equipped to live more independently in their community. Partners include <b>Community Living organizations in Peterborough, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes</b> . Funding for this project is up to \$188,800 over two years.