



Housing for People with Special Needs

Presenter: Zoe Kariunas & Kirra Dack- Senior Facilitators For the Shared Learning Forum



What is LIGHTS







- Must be eligible for residential services through the DSO
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must reside or be looking to reside in Toronto
- Must be willing to explore options for living situations and network with other families
- Must be willing to work with facilitators to develop a comprehensive plan and budget
- Must be prepared to self manage a living situation

What LIGHTS does



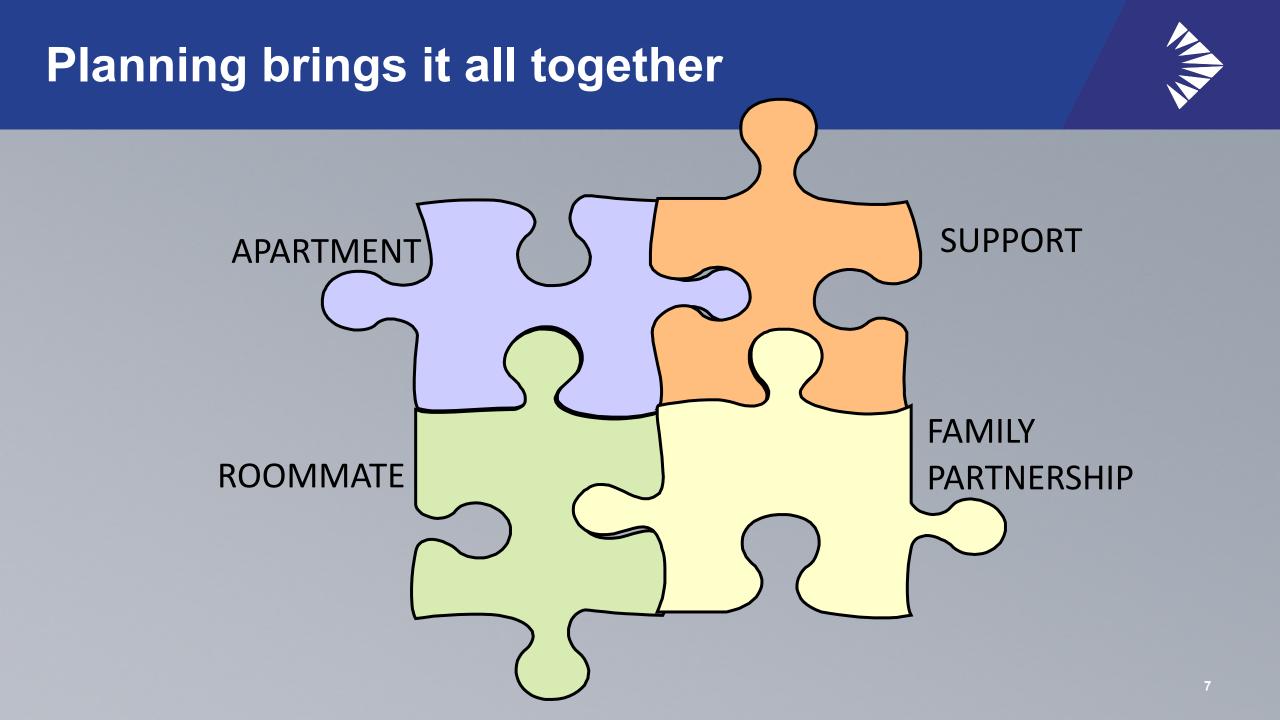
- Meet one-on-one with families in their homes
- Educate about the developmental services system
- Facilitate conversations about moving out as a family
- Assist in developing a comprehensive plan
- Provide opportunities to network with other like-minded families
- Provide anecdotal experiences of other families
- Encourage development of collaborative support circles
- Support in developing a budget around the plan

What LIGHTS doesn't do

- Charge a fee to families
- Not accessed through the DSO
- Manage homes
- Hire private support workers for families
- Have a stock of real estate
- Act as case managers for individuals
- Support with employment
- Manage Passport funding
- Make decisions for families

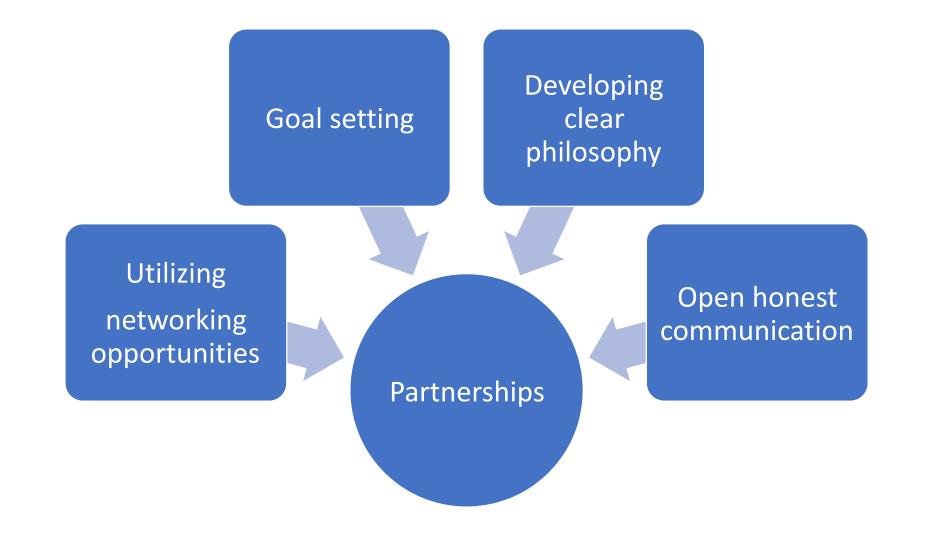
Common Misconceptions

- LIGHTS is just for "high functioning" people
- LIGHTS has a secret stock of affordable housing
- LIGHTS leads to long term funding
- LIGHTS can introduce individuals to potential roommates without any planning in place



LIGHTS helps families connect





Some planning resources

Partners 4 Planning

http://www.planningnetwork.ca/en-ca



PooranLaw

https://pooranlaw.com/



Plan Institute

http://futureplanningtool.ca/



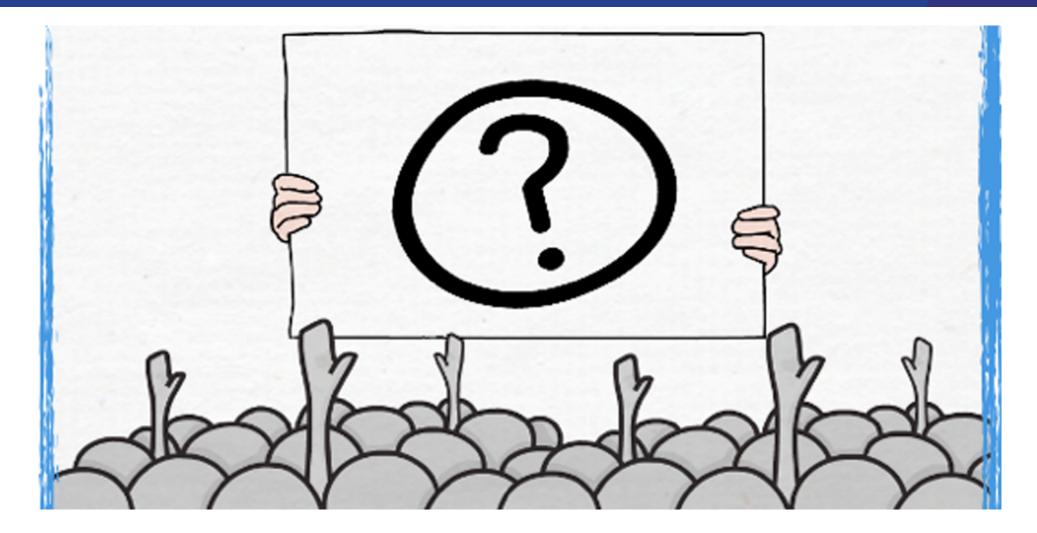




- LIGHTS has been around for 9 years and counting
- 69 + individuals have moved out
- Hundreds more are planning
- LIGHTS is advocating for families and giving people choices
- There are 2 LIGHTS Facilitators who have permanent positions from Ministry funding
- Families are PLANNING!

Questions





For more information



Website <u>www.lights.to</u> Email <u>lights@cltoronto.ca</u>



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