

DSO Housing Navigation

With Alexandra Shannan DSO
Toronto Region



April 2026

Topics we will cover

- 🏠 The role of the DSO Housing Navigator
- 🏠 Types of Housing
- 🏠 The DSO Housing Toolkit + Tools
- 🏠 Housing E-learning Videos (modules)
- 🏠 Upcoming Webinars
- 🏠 The Power of Family: Solutions Lab Initiative

Role of the DSO Housing Navigator

To provide individuals and families with the information and resources needed to create individualized and person-centred housing plans.

www.dsontario.ca/find-your-dso

Types of Housing

Community/Social Housing

Government-assisted housing that provides lower cost rental units to households with low-to-moderate incomes.

Housing Benefit

A non-repayable subsidy to help eligible households pay the rent.

Affordable Rental Housing

Housing that is priced at or below the regions average market rent by unit size.

Co-op Housing

A type of housing where you are seen as a member who shares in voting rights and other responsibilities with all residents.

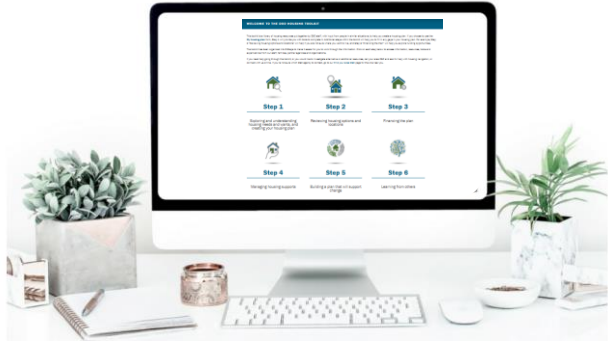
Rent Geared-to-Income

A type of social housing where the amount of rent you pay is based on your net income.

Market Rental Housing

A type of housing is not classified as 'subsidized' or affordable under any affordable housing program

Housing Navigator Tools and Resources



Toolkit



Webinars



Workshops

Podcasts



Information Sessions



Presentations



WELCOME TO THE DSO HOUSING TOOLKIT



Step 1

Exploring and understanding housing needs and wants, and creating your housing plan



Step 2

Reviewing housing options and locations



Step 3

Financing the plan



Step 4

Managing housing supports



Step 5

Building a plan that will support change



Step 6

Learning from others

My Housing and Support Plan Budget Tool

My Housing and Support Plan Budget

The My Housing and Support Plan Budget is a tool to help you plan for your future or the future of your loved one. This budget is for personal use and should be used for estimation purposes only. For legal or financial advice it is best to engage professionals that specialize in their field.

This budget is divided into 7 sections, click on the section to take you to a particular section of the budget or scroll down

[Section 1 - My Personal Information](#)

[Section 2 - My Support Needs](#)

[Section 3 - My Support Costs](#)

[Section 4 - My Support Resources](#)

[Section 5 - My Housing and Living Costs](#)

[Section 6 - My Housing and Living Resources](#)

[Section 7 - My Assets](#)



Housing E-Learning Videos (modules)

WEBCASTS AND E-LEARNING VIDEOS



Housing e-learning videos (modules)

DSO Housing Navigators from the Toronto, South-East and Eastern Regions have created a series of e-learning videos (modules) that users can progress through on their own, at their own pace, whenever they like. Users can return to the modules whenever they like, as many times as they like.

The topics for the videos are related to information found in the DSO Housing Toolkit and the Creating Your Individualized Housing and Support Plan webcast series that is hosted by DSO Housing Navigators several times per year. All Housing Navigation Webinars and Webcast Series are added to the [DSO Events Calendar](#).

If users need help with accessing the e-learning videos (modules), they are encouraged to contact dsotrjhn@surreyplace.ca. If users have questions about housing navigation services and resources in their local area, they can contact their local [DSO Housing Navigator](#).

Each video has a related Resource with links to information related to content covered in the e-learning video (module).

1. Creating Your Housing Vision:

This e-learning video (module) was created by DSO Housing Navigators. The topic of the module is Creating Your Housing Vision. Users can progress through this module on their own, at their own pace, whenever they would like.



Resource:
[Creating Your Housing Vision](#)

<https://www.dsontario.ca/resources/webcasts>

Webinars

- Creating Your Individualized Housing and Support Plan
- Technology to Support Independence
- Social and Affordable Rental Housing
- Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Tenant
- Bricks and Mortar – Exploring Homeownership Options
- ODSP - Things to Know & Answers to Common Questions
- And More!

VIRTUAL LUNCH AND LEARN



A Story of Shared Living

Join DSO Housing Navigators over lunch to discuss housing topics. Sessions take place in a virtual format and are open to people with a developmental disability, their family members and/or support networks, as well as professionals in Ontario.



DATE
Thursday, April 23, 2026

TIME
12:00pm – 1:00pm EST



[REGISTER HERE](#)



**QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS
EVENT CAN BE SENT TO:**

DSOhousing@dsoer.ca

Shared Housing

This virtual presentation features one family who invited another family's daughter to live alongside their own in a supported home. Learn how the arrangement was created, what supports were in place, and how shared living can foster independence and connection.

Topics covered will include:

- **How the Shared Living Arrangement Was Created**
From the initial idea to setting up supports, agreements, and routines—what it took to make the shared home work.
- **Benefits and Challenges of Shared Supported Living**
Honest reflections on what worked well, what was challenging, and how issues were addressed along the way.
- **Impact on Independence, Well-Being, and Family Stress**
How shared living supported greater independence for the daughters while reducing isolation and caregiver stress for families.

This lunch and learn will be facilitated by Karen Roberts and Olivia Thomas, DSO Eastern Region.



Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) helps adults with developmental disabilities find services and supports in their community.

CONNECT WITH US!
dsoontario.ca

The Power of Family: Unlocking Family Homes to Create Pathways to Scaling Community Land Trusts



This initiative is an Ontario-based CMHC-funded initiative under the National Housing Strategy Solutions Labs program led by **Extend-a-Family Kingston (DSOSER)** in collaboration with Service Coordination Support (**DSOER**), **Surrey Place (DSOTR)**, and **SHS Inc.** The three Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) agency partners work as service access points, helping individuals and families connect to housing, services, and supports in their region.

This Lab will include participation from individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, community land trusts, service providers, and other key experts, including representatives from:

- Developmental Services Ontario
- Circle Community Land Trust
- The Muskoka Community Land Trust
- Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs
- Intentional Community Consortium
- Reena



Our Focus

This Lab focuses on matching asset owners seeking to ensure permanent supportive housing for family members with developmental disabilities with budding community land trusts (CLTs) looking to grow their portfolios through property acquisitions or capital investment to unlock an untapped source of housing supply and development potential for the community housing sector.

Initial Problem Frame

How might we design a “win-win” model for property owners to contribute their assets to a community land trust to unlock new affordable supportive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities?

Desired Outcomes

This Lab aims to achieve the following desired outcomes:



Create a new family-led housing model for individuals with developmental disabilities requiring housing with support



Unlock an untapped source of housing supply with development potential for the community housing sector



Support the growth of local community land trusts to grow their portfolios and achieve economies of scale without large-scale, time- and resource-intensive development.

Contact

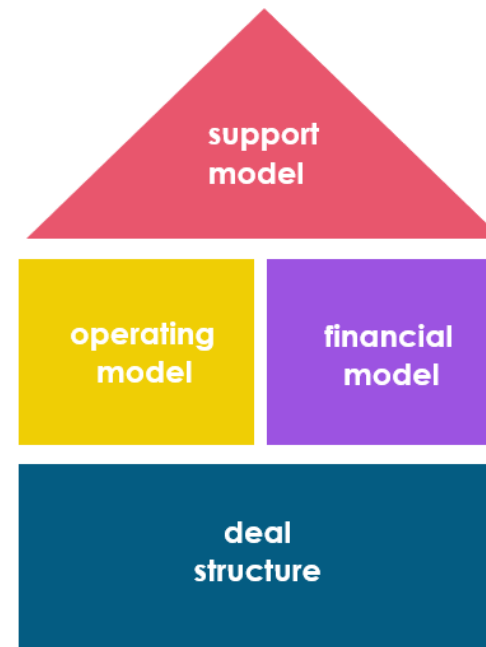
Alexandra Shannan • Surrey Place (DSOTR) • alexandra.shannan@surreyplace.ca

Martha Beach • Extend-a-Family Kingston (DSOSER) • mbeach@dsoser.com

Olivia Thomas • Service Coordination Supports (DSOER) • othomas@dsoler.ca

The Power of Family: Unlocking Family Homes to Fund Supports and Scale Community Land Trusts

The Power of Family: Unlocking Family Homes to Fund Supports and Scale Community Land Trusts is a National Housing Strategy Solutions Lab that aims to create a new housing model enabling families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to transfer their assets to a local community land trust to ensure permanent supportive housing for their loved ones. This initiative is based in Ontario and will run from April 2025 to October 2026.



Visit our our project webpage to follow our progress and fill out our participation form to get involved!

<https://shs-inc.ca/poweroffamily/>



SHS Innovation

Housing Navigators Across the Province

Name	DSO Region	Agency	Phone	Email
Christina Hall	Central West	Sunbeam Community and Developmental Services	1-888-941-1121	c.hall@sunbeamcommunity.ca
Katherine Picard	Central East	Your Support Services Network	1-855-277-2121	KPickard@yssn.ca
Martha Beach	South East	Extend A Family Kingston	613-544-8939 ext. 1204	mbeach@dsoser.com
Bambi Pepe	North	Lutheran Community Care	1-807-345-3949 ext. 231	b.pepe@lccare.ca
Raegan Wilkin	North East			r.wilkins@lccare.ca
Alex Shannan	Toronto	Surrey Place	1-855-372-3858	dsotr.hn@surreyplace.ca
Tanner Stranges	Hamilton Niagara	Contact Hamilton	1-877-376-4674 ext. 212	housing@dsohnr.ca
Christina Derbyshire	South West	Community Services Coordination Network	1-855-437-6797	christinaderbyshire@dsoswr.ca
Olivia Thomas Karen Roberts	East	Service Coordination Support	613-740-5232 613-740-5245	othomas@dsoer.ca kroberts@dsoer.ca

<https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/dso-housing-navigators-contact-list>

Contact!

DSO Toronto Housing Navigator: Alexandra Shannan

Email: dsotr.hn@surreyplace.ca

Phone: 416-458-3866

Provincial List of DSO Housing Navigators:

<https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/dso-housing-navigators-contact-list>

DSO Events Calendar:

<https://www.dsontario.ca/calendar/>

CONNECT WITH US!

[dsontario.ca](https://www.dsontario.ca)

