

# Direct Connection

MISSOURI DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES



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## Housing Collaboration: The Next Step to Inclusive Housing Development

Many Americans dream of living in their own home. For people with disabilities, purchasing or renting a home allows them to live independently in a neighborhood of their choice and build a secure future. The development of quality, affordable, universally designed housing is becoming a reality across Missouri. In order to ensure sustainability and coordinated growth of this effort, it is vital to bring all citizens with disabilities together to find solutions to housing needs within the state.

Through the support of the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council, the Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (Mohousing) has been commissioned to:

- Bring together the disability support systems in Missouri to create a multi-demographic partnership with all aspects of the disability communities and their support networks
- Create an ongoing conversation regarding housing development for citizens with disabilities in Missouri
- Develop regional housing teams made up of citizens in need of subsidized housing, agencies that support them, and the private and public housing development communities
- Implement a unified housing plan to guide the development of subsidized housing in Missouri to best meet the individual needs of citizens requiring housing support

According to Wayne Crawford, Executive Director of Mohousing, "If we are to continue our success and make quality, affordable, universally designed housing the norm for all citizens in need, we must come together in a unified effort to develop and coordinate housing development. The disability communities can no longer remain as separate entities in the fulfillment of their specific housing needs. If we are to develop full community inclusion for all citizens with disabilities, then we must unify our housing needs and development."

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**CONNECTING WITH THE  
DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

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# Best Practices for Universal Design in MO

Universal design is now an integral part of public housing in Missouri. The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) board of directors formally voted to require that, beginning in 2016, all new construction projects for elderly and single family dwellings supported by MHDC shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the principles of universal design. This collaborative effort among the Governor’s Council on Disabilities, Starkloff Disability Institute, Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (Mohousing), citizens with disabilities, and a group of dedicated citizens supporting individuals with a variety of disability issues made this possible. This action by MHDC opens the door to affordable housing for all citizens in need.

Universal design allows all citizens to live independently to the fullest extent possible. This is a win-win proposition for the consumer, the marketplace, and the builder. It reduces the social and personal cost of aging and disability, adds to the diversity of a community, and builds value in the housing stock.

Through this effort, citizens with disabilities will have access to more publicly subsidized housing that allows them to maintain their living standards throughout their life.

As future publicly funded and privately developed homes are built using the principles of universal design, the foundation of full community inclusion for all citizens moves closer to reality. The current requirements for universal design can be viewed by clicking on the following link:  
<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/universaldesignrequirements.pdf>.

## Community Living Coordinators

Community Living Coordinators are located at each Regional and Satellite Office. Community Living Coordinators provide technical assistance regarding affordable universally designed housing and other community living issues to individuals, families, providers and support coordinators. Contact information for Community Living Coordinators can be found on DD’s website:  
<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/communitylivingcoordinator.pdf>



## Missouri Ranked #3 in the Nation

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) recently released *The Case for Inclusion 2015 Report*, an annual ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Missouri ranked #3 in the country, after Arizona and Maryland. A high functioning Medicaid program is based on four key areas: promoting independence; promoting productivity; keeping families together and reaching those in need; and tracking health, safety, and quality of life.

The report also named Missouri as the second most improved state, from #41 in 2007 to #3 in 2015, for dramatically increasing resources dedicated to people in their communities (from 59% to 86%), reducing by 57% the number of people living in state institutions, and participating in the National Core Indicators program.

The full report can be found at:  
[http://cfi.ucp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UCP\\_2015\\_CaseforInclusion\\_FINAL.pdf](http://cfi.ucp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UCP_2015_CaseforInclusion_FINAL.pdf).





## New Homes Make Community Living Possible

Three men recently moved into this newly built home with universal design features in Sikeston. The men had been living in the Southeast Missouri Residential Services (SEMORS) habilitation center in Sikeston and wanted to move to the community. Finding an existing home that they could rent that was both affordable and that met their current and future needs proved extremely difficult. So, the staff at SEMORS and Sikeston Regional Office worked with a local builder to have a new home built specifically for the men.



The attractive three-bedroom home features a stepless entry, an open floor plan, an easy entry/roll in shower, easy maintenance flooring, and a small deck that can be accessed from interior French doors without using steps. The garage allows the men to access their transportation without weather concerns. The house is affordable for the men and is comparable in cost to a much older home that would have been far less functional for them. New windows and adequate insulation make the utilities affordable as well. Through planning and collaboration, the support team for these individuals was able to develop a new home that has everything these men needed to move into the community.

The Support Coordinator for the three gentlemen said that they are doing well. She reported that one of the men likes to sit on his mat in the living area, another enjoys looking at magazines in his own home, and the third gentleman proudly shows her parts of his home each time she visits. All three men are able to go out in the community and participate in activities they enjoy.

Brian Auten, with Venus Independent Living, recently helped three ladies move from a Residential Care Facility (RCF) to a home in St. James, Missouri. To make this move possible, Brian searched for property on which to build a home for the ladies. He found property that already had the foundation built, so he drew up plans to fit. Within 30 days, the house was ready for the ladies to move into.

These three ladies had lived in a RCF for a total of 61 years, an average of 20 years each. Their lives have changed dramatically. No longer are they sharing rooms with other women. Each lady has her own room decorated with pictures of family and posters of her favorite movies. The home has some Universal Design (UD) concepts such as an open floor plan with no hallways and extra wide doors to get into the house and bedrooms. The hardwood floor makes getting around the home that much easier for the ladies who use walkers. The ladies are very proud of their home, and Brian is working to build a second home for four other individuals.

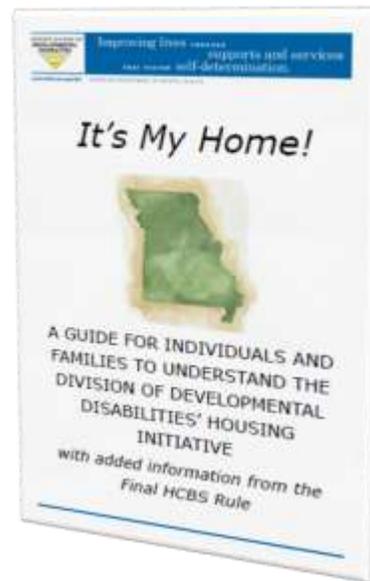




# It's My Home

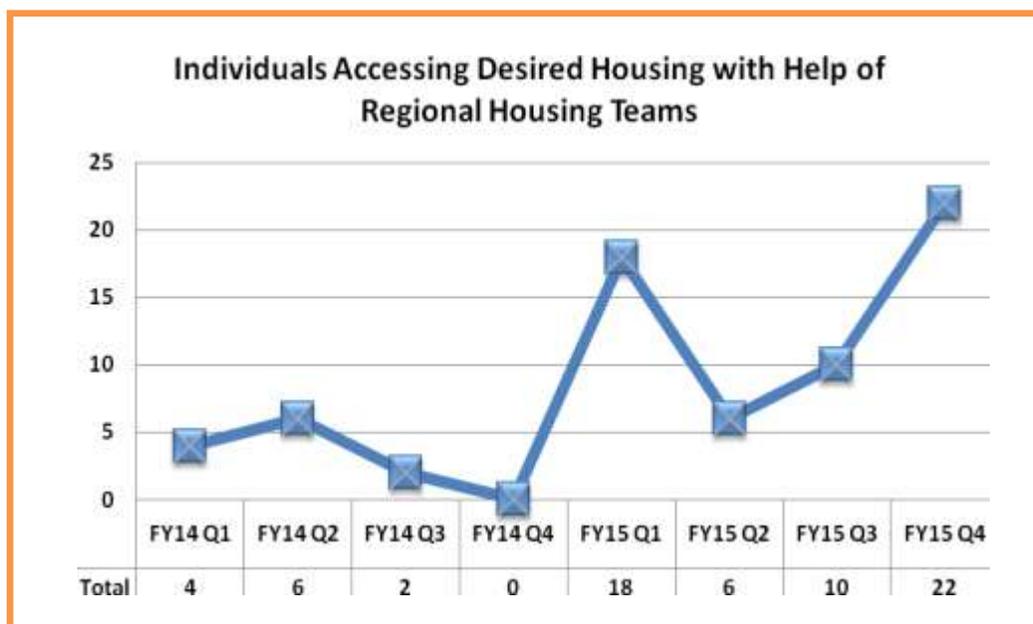
*It's My Home* is a guide for individuals and families to understand the Division of Developmental Disabilities' housing initiative. The guide provides information about the Division's Housing Plan and what the guiding principles mean for individuals and families. The guide includes information about the Final Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rule as it relates to housing.

The Guide is available on DD's website:  
<http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/hsgguide.pdf>



## Individuals Accessing Desired Housing

This graph shows the number of individuals supported by the Division of Developmental Disabilities who have accessed desired housing as a result of the work of Housing Teams coordinated by the Community Living Coordinators.



***“The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity.”***  
-Ayn Rand



# Community Calendar

**September 30, 2015** – Missouri AAIDD Fall Conference, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Trauma and Healing in the Lives of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by Shirley Pacey, Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, KC, MO  
To view the registration brochure, click on: <http://moaaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAIDD-Pacey-2015-KC.pdf>

**October 1, 2015** – Missouri AAIDD Fall Conference, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Trauma and Healing in the Lives of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by Shirley Pacey, Courtyard Marriott, 3301 Lemone Industrial Blvd, Columbia, MO  
To view the registration brochure, click on: <http://moaaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAIDD-Pacey-2015-Columbia2.pdf>

**October 26, 2015** – *A Home for Everyone*, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO  
This free conference, sponsored by Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living (MERIL), Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation, Missouri Western State University, and the Albany Satellite Office, will focus on the current status of safe, affordable, quality, universal design housing in Missouri, collaboration among agencies, and the development of housing teams to coordinate housing. For more information, contact Renita Neville at [renitan@meril.org](mailto:renitan@meril.org).

**March 23, 2016** – Save the Date – Supported Decision Making with Jonathan Martinis, Columbia, MO – More information will be posted on the MOAIDD website: <http://moaaid.org/>

MISSOURI DIVISION OF  
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Improving lives THROUGH  
supports and services  
THAT FOSTER self-determination.

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH