

New York State Association of Community Residential  
Agencies & Westchester Institute for Human Development



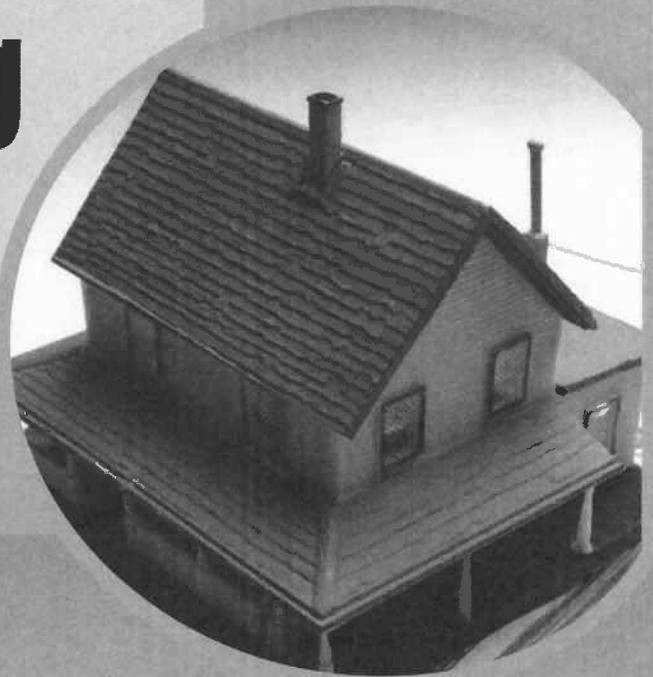
WESTCHESTER INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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# Report to the Housing Task Force

Report to the Housing Task Force created with  
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## Executive Summary.

In 2015 NYSACRA received a grant from the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) through the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) which included funding to increase housing options for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in New York State. WIHD collaborated with NYSACRA on this portion of the grant. The NYSACRA-WIHD team created a statewide Housing Task Force which included a wide range of housing and related industry experts, representatives of state and local government, and provider agencies. The Task Force reviewed impediments to increasing housing options in the state and made recommendations to address those impediments. Concurrently NYSACRA and WIHD created the "Housing Navigator curriculum" designed to train I/DD professionals to assist agencies in understanding housing options and to guide people with I/DD and their families through the process of finding a home. The Task Force was a valuable resource in the creation of the curriculum.

This report to the Task Force sets out the major issues and impediments to more independent housing and recommends policies and practices that will increase options for people with I/DD.

The principle conclusions of the report are:

1. People with I/DD, their families, provider agencies and OPWDD need to create statewide and local housing collaborations that include the full range of stakeholders in affordable and supportive housing;
2. OPWDD and other stakeholders should create a Housing Resource Center to support people with I/DD and their families, as well as provider agencies and state agency stakeholders seeking to create and sustain housing;
3. OPWDD and other state agencies need to examine relevant laws and regulations in detail and understand how to ensure that where possible resultant policies and practices increase housing options rather than impede them;
4. Provider agencies and OPWDD should provide training to their boards, executives and staff that describes the changing housing options and how these changes will impact their future services; and
5. Provider agencies, advocacy groups, the Developmental Disabilities Councils, the University Centers for Excellence and other stakeholders should provide education for people with I/DD and their families to assist them in understanding and negotiating self-directed systems.