



# Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

## Position Statement on Housing

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council believes that all people should have homes that are safe, healthy and affordable. Having a developmental disability means that an individual may be more likely to have limited choices about where to live and with whom to live.

The Council takes the position that housing should offer:

**Accessibility** We believe that people should be able to live in homes that meet their needs.

**Affordability** We believe that people should be able to live in homes that do not cost too much. We believe that people should have access to housing subsidies and assistance with home modifications when and where they are needed.

**Choice** We believe that adults should be able to choose where to live, with whom to live, and whether to live alone. We believe that people should be able to choose the environment in which they live, for example; smoking or non-smoking, with or without pets, etc. We believe that people should be able to choose the neighborhood in which they live.

**Control** We believe that adults should control their lease or mortgage. People should not have to live in a particular place to be able to get services and supports. People should be able to decide and direct how things operate and function within their homes.

**Equity** We believe that people should be treated with respect and consideration. Disability, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or income level should not change how people are treated or where they are able to live.

**Inclusion** We believe that people should be able to live where they have the opportunity to contribute to the life of the community and receive the necessary services and supports to do so.

**Safety and Health** We believe that all people should be able to live in safe neighborhoods and in homes that are well-maintained, comfortable and do not cause or increase medical problems.