

A Closer Look at Housing Choices

A Housing Resource
Guide for People
with Developmental
Disabilities



The
Arc
of North Carolina[®]

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Guide for People
with Developmental
Disabilities**



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To request a copy of this publication, contact The Arc of North Carolina at **919-782-4632** or 800-662-8706. The document is also available on The Arc's website at www.arcnc.org.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Arc of North Carolina is pleased to provide this Housing Resource Guide for your use.

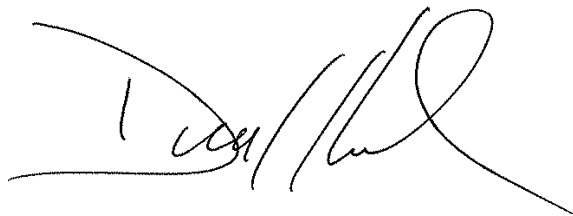
People with developmental disabilities and their families continue to challenge The Arc to change the landscape of housing. This guide is part of our comprehensive strategy of advocacy, service and information designed to assure that the right housing options are available in North Carolina.

The Arc, from its beginning as a volunteer parent organization in the 1950's, to the present, has always seen quality housing options as a critical component of a quality community life for people with developmental disabilities. Today we advocate with policy and lawmakers to assure these options are available and where appropriate, develop new options for people with developmental disabilities.

Our board of directors, made up of family members, people with disabilities and other interested citizens have made it clear that our obligation is to assure quality community housing options are available and accessible for every North Carolinian with a developmental disability. We hope this guide can be a valuable resource for individuals looking for housing as well as for the professionals that support them.

Special thanks to our housing coordinators, Nicole Kiefer and Freda Taylor for their work in compiling and writing this guide.

On behalf of our board and staff, please utilize this guide and share it with others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Richard", written in a cursive style.

Dave Richard, Executive Director
The Arc of North Carolina

About this Guide

This housing resource guide is designed to help people with developmental disabilities and their families find housing that meets their needs and fulfills their dreams.

This guide is divided into eight main chapters and provides the information and tools you need to navigate the housing system and locate housing options in your community. Following an introduction in Chapter 1, Chapters 2 and 3 focus on rental housing, including how to search for housing, and various rental options. Chapter 4 provides an introduction to home ownership and some of the programs that are available to help people with low-incomes purchase their own homes. Chapter 5 addresses group living options, including what to look for when choosing a group home, and residents' rights.

Chapter 6 focuses on fair housing and how to ask for reasonable accommodations and modifications for persons with disabilities. Other housing related resources such as emergency rent assistance, home repair, and assistive technology are located in Chapter 7. Finally, Chapter 8 contains a budget worksheet and other practical tools you can use in your housing search. A listing of housing agencies and a glossary of housing terms are in the appendices.

It should be noted that this guide does not address supportive services in any detail, however, supportive services are essential for most people with developmental disabilities to fulfill their housing dreams. People with disabilities and their families are encouraged to explore these service options in conjunction with their exploration of housing.

It is our hope that the information in this guide will help people with developmental disabilities, their families and others make informed and educated housing choices. We recognize that as housing programs change, some of the information in this book will require updating. Please consult The Arc's website at www.arcnc.org, as well as the other websites listed in this guide for the most up-to-date information.

The Arc of North Carolina is providing this guide, the information, listings and links contained herein only as a convenience to the reader. It is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice or a substitute for legal counsel. The Arc of North Carolina does not endorse specific programs, products and/or services.

Acknowledgements

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