

Project: Capacity for Locating Affordable/Accessible Housing
Applicant: Supportive Housing Association of NJ

Address: 15 Alden Street,
Cranford NJ 07016

Partners: various

Council Funds: \$39,720

Match Funds: \$14,710

Abstract:

Independent living is still a new concept to many people with developmental disabilities and their families. Many still do not plan for it, and fear it because they do not see the possibilities for successful transformation from congregate living or staying at home. This project will assist them increase their independence, community integration, and self direction by having the ability to find suitable housing and supportive services in an area of their choice.

The good news is that there is finally affordable/accessible housing starting to become available that meets the diverse needs of people with disabilities. The bad news is that by segregating the housing and service components there is no vehicle to reach the audience. This gap between the people with disabilities who are seeking independent living and the supportive housing developers who are building accessible affordable housing has become almost a chasm with the net result that apartment seekers cannot find what they need and the supportive housing developers cannot rent up accessible, affordable apartments even with rental subsidies attached to the units.

This project will provide a vehicle for people with developmental disabilities currently living at home or in congregate settings to successfully locate and move into supportive, affordable housing in New Jersey. In its first year of operation the project will be developed, launched, and will assist 35 consumers in accessing independent housing. To accomplish this we will post information on the rental needs of at least 75 clients and the rental possibilities of 15 developers of supportive housing.

Deliverables

A user friendly website accessed by at least 600 people with information on housing and supportive/generic services that results in 35 people with developmental disabilities find housing and support services suited to their unique needs in a location of their choice.