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THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF RHODE ISLAND'S HOUSING AUTHORITIES IN FURTHERING COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF RHODE ISLAND'S HOUSING AUTHORITIES IN
FURTHERING COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses and examines the housing issues for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island. The current philosophy of housing for people with developmental disabilities focuses on the promotion of personal choice and the integration of this population into the community rather than living in an institutional setting. Due to the reliance of this population on supportive housing programs, housing authorities play a major role in successful integration. Currently, there is no information oriented toward housing authorities that explains their potential role in furthering the goals of community integration for people with developmental disabilities. To promote the active participation of housing authorities in this process there needs to be an analysis of the current housing needs, innovative housing practices, and opportunities for an active partnership between the local housing authorities, people with developmental disabilities and support service providers. This study provides that information for Rhode Island's public housing authorities.

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I would like to dedicate this paper to my Mom who has always encouraged my strengths, praised me for my successes, and told me the sky's the limit!

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This study discusses and examines the housing issues for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals defines a developmental disability as; "a severe, chronic disability, other than mental illness, which is (a) attributable to a cognitive or physical impairment or a combination of cognitive and physical impairments; (b) is manifested before the person attains age 22; (c) is likely to continue indefinitely; (d) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major areas of life activity; self care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self direction; capacity for independent living; economic self-sufficiency; and, reflects the persons need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, generic care or other services which are of life-long or extended duration" (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)).

The current philosophy of housing for people with developmental disabilities focuses on the promotion of personal choice and the integration of this population into the community rather than living in an institutional setting. Due to the reliance of this population on supportive housing programs, housing authorities play a major role in successful integration. Currently, there is no information oriented toward housing authorities that explains their potential role in furthering the goals of community integration for people with developmental disabilities. To promote the active participation of housing authorities in this process there needs to be an analysis of the

current housing needs, innovative housing practices, and opportunities for an active partnership between the local housing authorities, people with developmental disabilities and support service providers.

This study will provide that analysis of current housing need, and will explain and provide recommendations for innovative housing practices and opportunities for active partnerships. This project starts by providing a review of the current literature concerning this issue. This first chapter will also describe, in more detail, the role and objectives of this study. The two subsequent chapters will provide a history of housing for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island and a description and explanation of the support services for people with developmental disabilities in the State. The fourth chapter will describe the current availability of affordable housing in Rhode Island, and the housing assistance programs available to people with developmental disabilities. The fifth chapter will describe the resources available and the challenges faced by the housing authorities in Rhode Island attempting to implement these housing assistance programs. The sixth and final chapter will provide recommendations on how a partnership between housing authorities, support service providers, advocacy groups, and people with developmental disabilities will allow housing authorities to use these resources in innovative ways to effectively implement the programs that meet the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities.

The remainder of this chapter will describe the current literature available concerning the issue and conclude with a discussion of the role this study will play in expanding housing choices for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island.

1.2 CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY TO CURRENT LITERATURE

The following sub-sections describe the paradigmatic evolution concerning housing for people with developmental disabilities through a review of how the literature of the past twenty years has addressed the issue.

1.2.a Early Housing Philosophies

The issue of housing for people with developmental disabilities dates back to the mid-nineteenth century when the majority of this population lived in either an institutional setting or with their families. The philosophy, or paradigm, regarding the housing of this population focused primarily on the institutionalization of these individuals (Willer, and Intagliata, 1984). From the mid-nineteenth century until the present, the goals and intentions of the institutionalization paradigm have been continuously evaluated by those involved in the care of these individuals.

1.2.b The Introduction of Community Integration

In the mid-1970's, an alternative paradigm began to emerge when advocacy groups began to aggressively promote the de-institutionalization of people with developmental disabilities (Willer & Intagliata, 1984). This alternative paradigm, the integration paradigm, promoted the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities to live in the general community outside the institutional setting. The introduction of the integration paradigm led to literature focusing on quality of life issues such as: alternative housing, the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, support services staff training, mainstreaming within school systems, and delivery of community-based services (Willer & Intagliata, 1984, McVilly & Rawlinson, 1998, Bramston & Cummins, 1998, Felce,

1998). These studies focused on the promotion of integration as a philosophy, and discussed why community integration should occur.

1.2.c Evaluation of the Integration Paradigm

As integration became a practice among support service providers, the literature began to focus on the evaluation of integration practices, and the strategies needed to realize the goals of integration. These studies argued that simply housing these individuals in the community was not sufficient to meet the true goals of integration, because even though many individuals were now living in a community, they were still isolated, just as in an institution (O'Connell, 1990, McVilly & Rawlinson, 1998). One important study focused on contributions of people with developmental disabilities within a community and, during the study, found that when contacting people with developmental disabilities they could only be found through a human service agency, or program (O'Connell, 1990). Another study discussed how integration practices should create a daily routine for people with developmental disabilities that includes interactions with various members of their communities (Russo, 1999). These studies argued that integration cannot truly occur if people with developmental disabilities do not become contributing members of their community and that integration practices should be focused on that goal.

1.2.d Insufficiencies of Current Literature

There is an abundance of literature regarding the importance of helping people with developmental disabilities to become active members of their community. Most of the literature that provides guidance on how to implement this goal is written for social service providers. However, there is a lack of information oriented towards agencies or individuals less directly involved in the day to day lives of people with developmental

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disabilities. Public housing authorities would be an example of this because, even though the housing authority provides subsidized housing programs, which are an essential service to people with developmental disabilities, housing authority staff persons are not providing support for these individuals on a daily basis. One example of the lack of information for housing agencies is guidance on how to effectively communicate with individuals with developmental disabilities. Therefore, housing professionals tend to rely on case managers to communicate the rules and regulations of supportive housing programs to people with developmental disabilities. This furthers the reliance of people with developmental disabilities on their caseworker, contradicting the true goals of integration.

1.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The philosophy regarding the care of people with developmental disabilities has shifted from a paradigm focused on institutionalization to one that promotes the integration of this population into the general community (Willer & Intagliata, 1984). Subsidized housing is a significant factor in the promotion of community integration because it allows the individual to afford to live in a community setting. According to the *Evaluation of Supportive Housing Programs for Persons With Disabilities*, prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), close to 50% of all residents in HUD funded supportive housing have developmental disabilities. Also, according to the report, this population has an average annual income of less than $6,500 (HUD, 1999).

In Rhode Island, individuals with developmental disabilities receive state aid for support services such as service coordination, family support, transportation and vocational services, however, no assistance is provided for housing expenses (Perry, 2000). Therefore, with limited income, this population relies on government subsidized housing programs. Although subsidized housing is a major factor in integration, current housing management practices do not contribute fully to the goals of integration.

Participation in government subsidized housing programs require an extensive amount of paper work and a clear comprehension of the rules and regulations. This could present a problem to people who cannot read, have a language barrier, or require other types of communication strategies. This leaves the individual not only dependent on the housing assistance but also dependent on another person such as a case manager, or a care provider, to assist with the understanding of the program.

Currently in Rhode Island, there is no report about the important role that housing authorities could play in the integration of people with developmental disabilities. There is a need for a report that includes an explanation of inclusionary housing management practices that empower these individuals to actively participate in their own housing decisions. In addition, there is a need for an analysis of the demand for affordable housing among this population, and an investigation of the potential for an active state-wide partnership in which housing managers, people with developmental disabilities and support service providers can exchange information.

1.4 OBJECTIVES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROJECT

The main objective of this project is to inform Rhode Island's housing authorities about the important role they play in the community integration of people with developmental disabilities, and to provide them with recommendations on how they can most effectively perform that role. To meet this objective, this report provides the information necessary to gain understanding of the housing issues related to the community integration of people with developmental disabilities.

This report informs housing managers about the history and housing needs of people with developmental disabilities. Secondly, this report provides the latest developments in support services to assist people with developmental disabilities to live within a community setting. Next, the report examines the current affordable housing need in Rhode Island and the affordable housing issues that people with developmental disabilities encounter. The study will also introduce housing managers to housing management practices that empower people with developmental disabilities, and provide recommendations for the creation of an active partnership between housing authorities, people with developmental disabilities, and support service providers.

The primary client of this project is the housing authorities of Rhode Island. This report will provide them with the information necessary to most effectively perform their role in the community integration process. The ultimate client is the population of people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island. As housing authorities become more informed and more active in the community integration process, it will work towards improving the quality of life for this population.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The research methodology for this study included a review of journal articles and books relating to this topic. Much of the information used in this report was derived from telephone and personal interviews with key stakeholders including advocacy groups, support service providers, local housing authorities, Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, and Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals. Interviews with housing professionals included a representative from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, housing authority Executive Directors, Section 8 Program Coordinators, and a consultant specializing in housing program implementation. Interviews with support service professionals included the President of Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR), and several representatives from the Rhode Island Division of Developmental Disabilities. Other interviews included a representative of Advocates in Action and a Section 8 program participant. Additional data collected was derived from a survey distributed, with the assistance of Mary Madden from OSARR, to local support service providers to elicit information concerning the housing needs of people with development disabilities. Please refer to Appendix A.

1.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY

Housing authorities play a vital role within a community, and to many individuals housing authority programs provide them with the ability to live a life of independence and to become contributing members of their community. Local housing authorities provide this service to many different populations. It is often difficult for housing authorities to understand the history and housing needs of each of the population groups.

In addition, housing managers are often overwhelmed with attempting to meet both the housing and social needs of the populations that they serve. Most housing managers do not have the time to research the housing issues concerning certain population groups or the innovative housing practices that could more effectively meet their housing needs.

Therefore, housing managers need to be able to consult a study that addresses these issues. Ideally, this type of study would describe innovative housing practices that facilitate the particular goals of the different populations served. For example, a study could provide recommendations on how to facilitate the goal of community integration for people with developmental disabilities. This study attempts to provide that type of information to housing authorities.

This chapter has described the importance of this study to assist Rhode Island's housing authorities in effectively performing their important role in successful community integration for people with developmental disabilities. The next chapter will describe the history of housing and support service delivery for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island.

2. HISTORY OF SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY AND HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN RHODE ISLAND

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In the early twentieth century the philosophy, or paradigm, regarding housing options for people with developmental disabilities focused primarily on the institutionalization of these individuals (Willer and Intagliata, 1984). The beliefs of this paradigm were adopted and followed by the State of Rhode Island. In 1907 the State established the Rhode Island School for the Feeble Minded[1], later known as the Joseph L. Ladd Center (Schneider, 1981). Until 1994, when the Ladd Center closed, the goals and intentions of the institutionalization paradigm were continuously evaluated by individuals living in the institutions and those involved in providing care for them.

The closing of the Ladd Center, which for 87 years exemplified the institutionalization paradigm, led to new housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island. These new opportunities eventually allowed individuals with developmental disabilities to have more control over their own life through the ability to choose the community and the setting in which they lived. Their independence was furthered by policies that encouraged individuals with developmental disabilities to become a contributing member of their community.

This chapter will discuss the impetus behind the opening of Rhode Island's state institution for people with developmental disabilities and how the Ladd Center was operated.

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[1] The term Feeble Minded was used to refer to people with developmental disabilities during the early 1900's.

The chapter also discusses the developments that led to the closing of the Center including the political climate and tenacious work of a parents group to promote human rights and a chance for equal opportunity for people with developmental disabilities. Through their efforts, people with developmental disabilities are now beginning to have the opportunity to become contributing members of their own communities. Contributing membership includes employment, volunteer work, participating in civic meetings and local events, and patronizing local services such as grocery stores and restaurants.

2.2 THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE STATE INSTITUTION

Prior to the nineteenth century, it was predominately believed that supernatural forces caused the mental condition of people with developmental disabilities, then referred to as the feebleminded (Curran, 1998). During that period, "lunacy" or "idiocy" were considered divine punishment or the work of evil spirits (Curran, 1998). Many people considered to have "mental differences" ended up in almshouses, which local towns built and managed. The purpose of these almshouses was for "grouping together societies burdens and manage them as inexpensively and invisibly as possible" (Curran, 1998, p. 5).

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the United States began shifting from an agrarian society to an industrial society. This brought about a shift in the philosophy regarding the "feebleminded" living within communities. (Willer & Intagliata, 1984) Education became a priority during this time. Education of the general public was

administered in a typical classroom setting and a "residence" setting was considered best for the education of the "feebleminded".

Society began to isolate the "feebleminded" due to a change in their beliefs regarding the cause of feeblemindedness (Willer & Intagliata, 1984). During the early part of the nineteenth century, people believed that feeblemindedness was a result of the "improper moral education of parents, as if to say the parents were the roots of the problems" (Willer & Intagliata, 1984, p.6). However, towards the end of the 1800's, the theories of the eugenic movement became popular. The eugenics movement believed that feeblemindedness was a disease that could "infect society if not controlled" (Gould, 1998, p.1). It was believed that "idiots were born idiots, and consequently that idiots beget idiots" (Willer & Intagliata, 1984, p.7). Therefore, it was thought that "society had a role to play in providing for the welfare and 'asylum' of people with mental retardation albeit in segregated setting sufficient to preclude reproduction" (Bradley, 1998, p.4).

The theory of Social Darwinism, which began to be espoused during this period, was another contributing factor leading to the isolation of the "feebleminded". Social Darwinism argued that "society needed to cleanse itself of those unfit to survive by resisting the urge to aid them" and "provided the motivation and justification for a new form of treatment for the mentally disabled" (Curran, 1998, p. 7). These beliefs that the "feebleminded" should live and work segregated from society led to the movement to build state institutions to house these individuals. Rhode Island followed this trend and in 1907 built the first and only state institution for the feebleminded in the town of Exeter. This institution later became known as the Joseph L. Ladd Center.

2.3 THE JOSEPH L. LADD CENTER

The following sub-sections describe the establishment of the first state institution for individuals with developmental disabilities. This institution, established in Exeter Rhode Island, became known as the Joseph L. Ladd Center, named for the long time Director of the Center. Below is a discussion of the original goals of the Center and then what actually occurred there.

2.3.a Early years of the Ladd Center, 1907-1920's

In 1907 the Rhode Island General Assembly introduced the act that enabled the state of Rhode Island to purchase three farms consisting of 500 acres of land in Exeter, Rhode Island (Schneider, 1981). The three farms were to be used for a new institution that would serve "as a state school for the feebleminded" (Curran, 1998, p.8). Upon completion of construction, the school opened as the Rhode Island School for the Feebleminded. Joseph L. Ladd became the first Director of the institution. Joseph L. Ladd said that the population served by the institution included people with "retarded development, lack of judgment and self-control, absence of reasoning power, and the inclination to petty thieving and purposeless lying" (Curran, 1998, p.15). In 1917 the name of the school was changed to "The Exeter School" because Dr. Ladd believed "the title of the institution is the source of a great deal of annoyance to the parents and friends of the children here, and also to the higher grades among children themselves" (Curran, 1998, p.15).

The original legislation that established the State institution called for a "farm colony" for those "less trainable" and a "school department" for residents who were more "trainable" (Scheider, 1981, p.135). Ladd's original plan for the school was designed to

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implement the intent of the legislation by providing "vocational training for the trainable or high grade students in order for them to learn to be paroled back into society" (Curran, p.8, 1998). Female residents of the institution were to be taught waitressing and housekeeping skills while male residents were to be taught vocational skills like shoe repair, painting, or carpentry (Scheider, 1981). However, by the 1920's, a lack of funding, inadequate care for the individuals, poor living conditions, and other issues prohibited successful vocational training at the School, and the institution essentially became a "warehouse for society's refuse" (Schneider, 1981, p.140).

2.3.b 1920's to the 1950's

By 1922 there were 378 residents living in the institution. The institution was constructed to house 240 residents. In response to this overcrowding, the institution began a parole program that allowed "higher grade inmates" to leave (Schneider, 1981). This affected the upkeep of the institution because the individuals "paroled" were the residents who assisted in the maintenance of the facilities. In 1928 a State investigation of the institution stated that the school "was becoming a dumping ground for the unwanted" (Scheider, 1981, p.140). There were inadequate sleeping quarters and there were no provisions for recreation or entertainment (Scheider, 1981).

On June 1, 1958 Dr. Ladd resigned from the school and the schools name was changed to the Joseph L. Ladd Center. Dr. John Smith became the Director of the school and inherited the existing problems at the state institution. It was also during this period when parents of children with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island began a reform movement that called into question the institutionalization paradigm. Also during this

period, the public became aware of the quality of life issues within the institution through media coverage of the conditions at the Center.

2.4 DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION: THE 1950'S TO THE 1970'S

During the 1950's, a parent with a child diagnosed with mental retardation had limited options for their child's education and recreational activities. At the time, States provided assistance to individuals with developmental disabilities only through institutions. Therefore, parents who chose to keep their child at home could not receive any type of support or assistance. The only choices for most parents, usually at the advice of their family physician, was to send their child to the Ladd Center. Those parents who could afford it would send their child to a private school (Curran, 1998). Other parents who had the financial means chose to stay at home with their child. These parents faced the frustration of a limited amount of recreational or educational activities for their children (Bair, 1981). This frustration over their lack of options, and their desire for their children to have the opportunity to lead a "normal" life within their community, led to a yearning for change.

Another prime catalyst for deinstitutionalization came from the public's demand for change as a result of media coverage of quality of life within institutions. In 1956, the Providence Journal began a series of articles describing the conditions at the Ladd Center. The articles described the under-staffing and overcrowding at the Center. These articles and accompanying photographs provided the general public with a portrayal of life for the residents of the Center (Schneider, 1981).

During the same period, a group of Rhode Island parents created the first Parents

Council for Retarded Children in order to build a strong support network for reforms

(Curran, 1998). The first meeting, attended by over one hundred parents, took place at

the Biltmore Hotel in Providence (Bair, 1981). With the establishment of the council, a

large resource network was formed to work on behalf of individuals with developmental

disabilities in Rhode Island (Bair, 1981).

At the same time, a group of parents in Minnesota with the same concerns organized a

national conference in Minneapolis. Twenty-three active parents groups attended the

national conference and voted to form a national association (Bair, 1981). This national

association became known as the "National Association for Retarded Children". The

Association soon became a powerful lobbying force for federal legislation to ensure

access to education and other activities for people with developmental disabilities (Bair,

1981).

By 1968 the Association for Retarded Citizens in Rhode Island included ten chapters

with a membership of almost 1,000 families (Bair, 1981). The Association sponsored

lectures and other forms of information dissemination. The group also began to lobby the

State Legislature to provide for education and recreation services for their children within

their communities (Bair, 1981). In 1954 Congressman Fogarty, who was personally

interested in the issue of care for individuals with developmental disabilities, began to

work with the parent's council. Congressman Fogarty began to push for the ideas

forwarded by these families to become federal policy (Bair, 1981).

Soon after, Federal and State legislation was passed that created clinics, workshops,

special education classrooms, and funded medical research to identify the causes of

developmental disabilities (Bair, 1981, p.153). Other important State legislation passed

established the "Office of Mental Retardation" in Rhode Island and Federal legislation

that established the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides modest

monthly income for children and adults with disabilities, and Medicaid which provides

medical insurance (Bradley, 1991, p.5).

By the 1970's, the options for people with developmental disabilities and their parents

were greatly expanded. Through state and federal legislation, people with developmental

disabilities could now live outside of the institutional setting and receive education in the

public school system. Nevertheless, the stigma and perception that began early in history

towards people with developmental disabilities would continue to challenge them

throughout the next thirty years as they struggled to achieve successful community

integration.

2.5 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This history of the institutionalization of people with developmental disabilities

demonstrates the hardships created by a system that is based on the belief that particular

individuals should be isolated from society. An examination of this history shows the

overwhelming need to continue working towards successful community integration.

The next chapter will discuss the paradigm shift of support service delivery from an

institutional based system to one focused on the rights of the individual. In addition, the

chapter will show the trends in housing practices related to this paradigm shift.

3. COMMUNITY INTEGRATION: CURRENT SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY AND HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILIITES IN RHODE ISLAND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The paradigm concerning support service delivery for individuals with developmental disabilities continues to evolve from institutional care to a system that promotes individual choice. In Rhode Island, the Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals (MHRH) bases the support service delivery system for people with developmental disabilities on an adopted mission statement that includes goals and objectives to promote individual choice within a community setting. As mentioned in earlier chapters, the facilitation of an individual's right to live in a community setting has many labels, this report uses the term "Community Integration".

As communities grow and change the implementation of these goals and objectives can be complicated. There are many challenges to successful community integration. One example is the housing trends that exist within communities throughout Rhode Island. Currently, there is an increased need for affordable housing within Rhode Island communities, often exceeding availability. As this need grows, successful community integration becomes more difficult. This chapter describes how Rhode Island's current support service delivery system attempts to meet the challenges faced and promote community integration. This chapter will also describe current trends in housing for people with developmental disabilities and how these policies and programs play an essential role in support service delivery to people with developmental disabilities.

3.2 CURRENT SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY IN RHODE ISLAND

Current support service delivery for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island is an innovative care system that "enables people with disabilities to experience valued status and full membership in the community" (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). The Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals (MHRH) oversees support service delivery throughout the State. The support services are funded through a Medicaid entitlement program. The majority of services delivered are administered and performed by twenty-five private agencies throughout Rhode Island. These agencies all belong to, and are represented by, the Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR). The following sub-sections will describe the major role players in Rhode Island's support service delivery system.

3.2.a The Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals

The Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals (MHRH) is a state agency created by statue in 1970. MHRH provides care and support for disabled citizens of Rhode Island. The agency is authorized to "fund, develop, and administer a system of services for the state's citizens with disabilities" (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). Their mission is to "develop a system of relationships and resources that provides the opportunity for everyone to be included in the fabric of society" (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). The MHRH created the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department to respond directly to the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

3.2.b The Division of Developmental Disabilities

The Division of Developmental Disabilities is a division within MHRH that is responsible for "planning, providing, and administering supports for adults in Rhode Island with Developmental Disabilities" (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). The MHRH mission statement includes the important acknowledgement "that each person is unique and all should have the chance to develop and grow within a community of relationships." The supports administered through the Division of Developmental Disabilities include; service coordination, family support, provision of adaptive equipment, transportation, vocational services/supportive employment, community integration activities, emergency assistance, environmental adaptations and home modifications, and housing supports (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). These services are federally reimbursed under Medicaid, which is an entitlement program through a program called the Home and Community Base Waiver (J. Gould, 2000). In most cases a person with a developmental disability chooses a provider that then delivers these services. There are a number of these types of providers throughout Rhode Island. MHRH then allocates funding from the Medicaid program to the service provider for the support of the individual. These service providers belong to, and are represented by, an association known as the Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR). Appendix B provides a list of providers.

3.2.c The Ocean State Association of Residential Resources

There are twenty-five private agencies that provide services and support to over 2,000 people with developmental disabilities throughout Rhode Island. As explained above, these services are funded through the Medicaid Waiver Program and are overseen by the

Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR) represents these providers and serves as a resource to the member agencies. The mission of OSARR is "to organize information and resources, coordinate and promote staff development, influence direction and shape of services through grassroots lobbying of governmental bodies" (OSARR, 1999). They are an active association with innovative approaches to service delivery. In addition, they work closely with advocacy organizations, run by people with developmental disabilities, to continue the assessment and evolution of support service delivery within the state of Rhode Island.

3.2.d Advocacy Organizations

As mentioned above, there are advocacy organizations, administered by people with developmental disabilities, throughout the State of Rhode Island. These groups serve as a valuable resource to people, organizations, and agencies that are interested in learning about disability related issues or forming partnerships. The following sections describe two active statewide advocacy organizations.

3.2.d.i Advocates in Action

Advocates in Action is a statewide Self-Advocacy organization. The group has been in existence since 1993 and was incorporated in 1996. The program is overseen by a Board of Directors. Each member of the Board has a developmental disability. Their goal is to "help people who have a developmental disability learn how to speak up for themselves" (Advocates in Action, 2000). Advocates in Action members travel throughout Rhode Island and around the country speaking to groups and agencies about disability-related issues (Advocates in Action, 2000). The group is involved in activities such as the Rhode Island Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, the quarterly Statewide Self-

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Advocacy Meetings, and providing individualized training sessions to services agencies, direct care staff, school children, and others.

3.2.d.ii Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council assists people with developmental disabilities to "make Rhode Island a better place to live, work, go to school, and be part of their community" (RIDDC, 2000). The council has a three-year plan covering 1998 to 2000. The plan includes goals and objectives to "help move Rhode Island toward a community and service system in which people with developmental disabilities are welcomed and have access to services and supports that give them more choices, meaningful work, community membership, and equal rights" (http://www.riddc.org/project, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). The council sponsors a number of projects designed to further these goals and objectives. A list of these projects includes human rights training, employment training program, transit system evaluation, and providing public information and public education. The next section describes the paradigm shift regarding the care and support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

3.3 PARADIGM OF SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY IN RHODE ISLAND

Rhode Island's current mission statement, goals and objectives regarding support service delivery for people with developmental disabilities, as described above, are drastically different from the system based on institutionalization, discussed in the previous chapter. Table 3.1 displays this dramatic paradigm shift in support service delivery from the era of institutionalization, starting in the late 1800's, through to the

current era of community membership. Table 3.1 demonstrates how the typical setting for people with developmental disabilities evolved from an institution, then into group homes, workshops, and special classrooms during the 1960's, and most recently into a person's home, local business, and the neighborhood school. The table also shows the important evolution of who is thought to be the "person of concern" in the delivery of support services. During the institutionalization era, 1869-1960, the person of concern was the "patient", from 1960-1990 this evolved to become the "client", and during the 1990's the person of concern has now become the "citizen/consumer."

These are just a few examples of the changes in care and support service delivery for people with developmental disabilities. These examples, and the table below, provide important perspectives of the paradigm shift of support service delivery. The following section explains the trends in housing practices for people with developmental disabilities from the early 1970's until the present and the current housing challenges to the continuation of community integration.

Table 3.1: Changes in Care and Supports for Individuals with Disabilities

FOCAL QUESTIONS	ERA OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION 1869-1960	Era of Deinstitutionalization 1960-1990	Era of Community Membership 1990-Present
Who is the person of concern?	The Patient	The Client	The Citizen/Consumer
What is the typical setting?	An Institution	A group home, workshop, special school, or classroom	A person's home, local business, the Neighborhood School
How are the services organized?	In Facilities	In a continuum of Options	Through a unique array of supports tailored to the Individual
What is the model?	Custodial/Medical	Developmental/ Behavioral	Individual Support
How are services planned?	Through a plan of care	Through an Individualized Habilitation Plan	Through an individualize support plan based on Capacities
Who controls the planning decision?	A professional (Usually an MD)	An Interdisciplinary Team	The Individual
What is the planning context?	Standards of Professional Practice	Team Consensus	A circle of Support
What has the highest priority?	Basic Needs	Skill Development, Behavior Management	Choices/Personal preferences and relationships/connections
What is the objective?	Control or Cure	To Change Behavior	To change the environment and attitudes

Source: The chart was created by the Rhode Island Department of Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals (http://www.mhrh.state.ri.us (Last Visited April 4, 2000)).

3.4 TRENDS IN HOUSING PRACTICES

Beginning in the early 1970's the State began promoting community integration and therefore wanted to provide as many housing options as possible to people with developmental disabilities. One important aspect of this process was the relocation of an individual from the "institution" into housing within a community. It was not the State's goal to close the institution, but rather to begin providing housing and support services within communities, this trend would eventually eliminate the need for a state institution

(Quattromani, 2000). The following sections describe the policies adopted by the State to achieve this goal.

3.4.a Intermediate Care for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR)

In the early 1970's the federal Intermediate Care for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR) program was established to assist persons with developmental disabilities to relocate into a community setting by providing funding for both housing and support services. The individual's Supplementary Security Income (SSI) check was signed over to the MHRH to fund this assistance. Therefore, the person's housing, and support service expenses were paid for. The individual was also allotted a minimal monthly amount for clothing and personal expenses.

3.4.b Creating Housing Options

With ICFMR, the funding mechanism to make community integration possible was in place, so the MHRH then needed to create the housing options. There were several factors to take into consideration involving housing options. The main factors included the location and affordability of housing as well as the availability of accessible housing units. At that time, MHRH had state bond funds available to purchase housing. The state was able to purchase "ranch style" homes in both urban and suburban areas throughout Rhode Island. As many as six people lived in each of these houses as roommates. In addition, the State used HUD funded apartments to create additional housing options for people with developmental disabilities. This housing is often designated for elderly and disabled individuals. With the federal subsidization the State only needed to pay 30% of housing cost to allow people with developmental disabilities to live in these HUD funded apartments.

This plan allowed for easier and efficient provision of support services because there were up to six persons in each ranch home, and those living in the HUD funded apartments would usually live in adjoining apartments. This allowed social service providers to serve more individuals with one trip. Lastly, those who chose to stay at home with their families could also receive funding for home modifications and support services (within certain eligibility requirements). Although, the move from institutionalization to the community was working successfully, challenges did develop (Quattromani, 2000).

3.4.c Home and Community Base Medicaid Wavier Program

During the late 1980's the State of Rhode Island took the initiative to move away from federal ICFMR funding because the State felt the program was too medically oriented for the purposes of community integration. This meant that individual homes were becoming like small nursing homes, heavily regulated by the Department of Health. The State desired a more holistic and flexible approach to support service delivery. Over time, the State began to use the newly established Medicaid Waiver Program for the purposes of support service delivery. This funding mechanism allowed for more flexibility, however, the program would not pay for room and board. Individuals with developmental disabilities would receive their SSI check directly, but had to pay for their own housing expenses. This created a new challenge to provide housing options for these individuals (Quattromani, J. Gould, 2000).

This policy shift also furthered the evolution of the paradigm concerning housing for people with developmental disabilities. Under the ICFMR, the State was able to cluster these individuals into group home settings or clusters of apartments. However, people

with developmental disabilities wanted their "own" apartments within a community and setting of their choice. With the conversion to the Medicaid Waiver Program, the State could no longer provide the rent or mortgage for these group home, or group home like, settings. Giving SSI benefits directly to individuals allowed them to make their own choices and, as shown in Table 3.1, the typical housing setting changed from a group home to a "person's home". Although individuals with developmental disabilities could pursue more housing options, their SSI benefits was often not enough to afford a safe and decent housing unit. Therefore, to continue community integration, MHRH faced the challenge of finding new sources of funding for housing assistance (Quattromani, J. Gould 2000).

3.5 CURRENT CHALLENGES TO SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

With the loss of funding for housing assistance and the limited availability of state bond funds, the availability of affordable housing is critical for the continuation of community integration. As will be explained in the next chapter, various subsidized housing programs play an essential role in providing a sufficient amount of available affordable housing in Rhode Island. The ability for a person to utilize subsidized housing is beneficial to community integration in several ways. Subsidized housing in a community setting allows for broader social contacts and provides greater economic values for the amount spent on housing (Quattromani, 2000). However, the availability of subsidized housing is the challenge. In an interview with a person receiving both Section 8 housing and support services through Division of Developmental Disabilities, the individual

spoke about her frustration with finding her own apartment. She stated that there are currently many people living in a 'group home' setting or with their families who would like to live on their own in their own apartment. However, there are long waiting lists for subsidized housing programs, and apartments are hard to find even when the individuals does receive housing assistance.

To determine the current housing need, an *Affordable Housing Needs Survey* was distributed to the twenty-five support service provider agencies throughout Rhode Island. There were a total of twenty-one surveys completed and returned. Overall, the survey results show that there are a number of individuals still in need of affordable housing as well as a number of individuals receiving housing assistance. Others not accounted for in the table are living in other types of home settings or are not in need of assistance. Table 3.2 provides a summary of the survey findings regarding the need for affordable housing among individuals with developmental disabilities.

Table 3.2: Current Housing Need

Total number of individuals supported by all respondent agencies	Number of individuals currently receiving Section 8 or living in Public Housing	Number of individuals currently on a Section 8 waiting list	**Number of individuals in need of Section 8 assistance**
1,844	279	92	**222**
100%	15%	5%	**12%**

In addition, the survey asked respondents to identify their most important issues regarding housing for people with developmental disabilities. The most common responses are listed below:

- Availability of accessible apartments

- Availability of affordable apartments

- Effective property management

- Long waiting lists for subsidized housing programs

- Affordable housing located in safe neighborhoods

- Elderly/Disabled apartments: elderly residents are often uncomfortable with younger tenants

- Lack of community access due to apartments located in remote areas

- Lack of access to public transportation

- Complicated rules and regulations of subsidized housing programs

- Assistance with location of housing options

This paper will provide recommendations on how these issues can be addressed, and what the role of local housing authorities could be in addressing them.

3.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter discussed the current support delivery system in Rhode Island and the trends in housing practices. The paradigm shift in support service delivery represents the dramatic shift in the decision making process from a professional/support service

provider to the individuals themselves. Also, the chapter discussed how the availability

of affordable housing is a primary challenge to successful community integration.

Chapter four will discuss the issues regarding both subsidized and unsubsidized

affordable housing in Rhode Island. Lastly, the chapter will describe the role that housing

authorities play in providing affordable housing and the challenges they often face in

implementing affordable housing programs.

4. AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter three described support services available to people with developmental disabilities throughout the state of Rhode Island. The chapter discussed the important challenge of facilitating the choice of an individual with a developmental disability to live within a community. This is particularly challenging because, due to certain factors, this population is disproportionately reliant on affordable housing. Therefore, the availability of affordable housing is crucial to this population.

There are various factors contributing to the reliance on affordable housing experienced by this population. One contributing factor is that persons with developmental disabilities receive funding for support services through the Medicaid Waiver program however, they do not receive any type of housing assistance. Also, the primary income of many people with developmental disabilities living in Rhode Island consists of SSI assistance, which averages $7,259 a year (Edgar et al., 1999). This annual income is insufficient for an individual to live in a community setting without some type of housing assistance.

A recent housing report by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force entitled *Priced Out* found that "96.36% of a person's SSI income is needed to rent an efficiency apartment" (Edgar et al., 1999). This leaves an insufficient amount of money for food and any other type of personal needs. The study found that nationally "people with disabilities must pay between 50 and 100 percent of their income to live in a modest efficiency apartment" (Edgar et al., 1999). Therefore, the availability of

affordable housing is essential to facilitate an individual's choice to live within a community.

There are two types of affordable housing supply in Rhode Island, unsubsidized housing, which consists of low rent housing units at market rental rates, and subsidized housing, which federally assisted housing (Smith, 1997). The following sections describe these two types of affordable housing stock and their availability in Rhode Island.

4.2 UNSUBSIDIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

As described above, unsubsidized housing refers to units at market rental rate. Although there are a number of unsubsidized housing options throughout the State, there are issues regarding the affordability of this housing stock. The 1999 Rhode Island State Housing Plan found that between 1990 and 1995 vacancy rates for all types of housing units increased from 8.8% to approximately 11.7%. According to the Rhode Island Association of Realtors State-wide Multiple Listing Service Survey (as referred to in the State Housing Plan) this trend has created an abundance of unsubsidized housing units available for sale to moderate-income households. However, this increase in the number of unsubsidized housing units has not benefited low-income individuals or families. The Plan states that the reasons for these vacancies ranged from "uninhabitable units, seasonal units, or units being rented or sold at amounts low-income households could not afford" (Statewide Planning Program, 1999).

During the same period, the number of single room occupancy units has decreased. The 1999 State Housing Plan states that in recent years several YMCAs in Rhode Island have stopped providing room rentals and many former rooming houses have been

demolished for various reasons. The majority of individuals renting single room occupancy quarters are single low-income individuals. Boarding houses and YMCAs were a unique housing resource that met the needs of this population (Statewide Planning Program, 1999). Therefore, this trend further limits the availability of unsubsidized housing that is affordable to low-income individuals.

Affordability of the remaining unsubsidized housing stock is a substantial issue, especially for individuals in Rhode Island living on SSI income only. The Consortium report *Priced Out* states that "within Rhode Island's non-metropolitan areas a person receiving SSI would have to pay 108.3% (of their income) for an efficiency apartment and 123.9% for a one bedroom. For Providence /Fall River/ Warwick the person would have to pay 96.4% (of their income) for an efficiency and 115.5% for a one bedroom" (Edgar et. al, 1999, p.44).

Safety and condition of the units that are available is another major issue concerning affordable unsubsidized housing for low-income individuals in Rhode Island. Urban communities are facing either stable or declining populations while suburban areas, especially in the southern part of the State, have grown dramatically. For example, between 1980 and 1990 the population in the City of Woonsocket in the north decreased by 4.4% while the population of the Town of Charlestown in the south increased by 35% (Rhode Island Housing, 2000).

The more sparse patterns of new development in the growing suburbs contrast sharply with the dense character of urban areas. The 2000 Rhode Island Consolidated Plan for Housing states that 42.2% of multi unit housing structures in Rhode Island are located in urban areas (Rhode Island Housing, 2000). Much of the affordable

unsubsidized housing units in Rhode Island are located in these types of structures.

However, much of this housing stock is located in urban neighborhoods that have

experienced disinvestment and property abandonment over the last twenty years. This

leads to a situation in which a good portion of the affordable unsubsidized housing is in

poor condition or in areas that may be unsafe.

In addition, the housing stock found in the suburbs are often located on large lots

with single family homes (Rhode Island Housing, 2000). These types of units are often

inaccessible and unaffordable to low-income individuals. Sparse development patterns

are also incompatible with the needs of individuals with disabilities who often rely on

public transportation to meet their mobility needs.

Although affordable unsubsidized housing may be available, units are often found

in distressed neighborhoods. This limits the choices for affordable, safe and decent

unsubsidized housing. Therefore, many low-income individuals in Rhode Island need to

depend on subsidized housing. The following section describes the subsidized affordable

housing options available to Rhode Islanders.

4.3 SUBSIDIZED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This section describes three U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) funded programs commonly used in Rhode Island to provide subsidized

affordable housing to low-income and disabled residents. These programs are public

housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and the Section 8 Mainstream

Housing Choice Voucher Program. HUD funded programs are administered at the State

level by the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (Rhode Island

Housing) and at the local level by various municipal public housing authorities throughout the State. This section also describes how these programs are administered in Rhode Island.

4.3.a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is a cabinet level agency that administers federal funding appropriated for subsidized affordable housing options in communities throughout the United States. HUD's main housing functions are to provide "insurance financing and other forms of assistance to private owners, non-profit organizations, and local housing authorities to enable them to develop affordable rental housing" (Smith, 1997, p.i). Along with funding, HUD also establishes the rules and regulations regarding HUD programs and provides technical assistance for local housing authorities.

HUD provides a wide array of programs using various strategies to provide affordable housing for low income and disabled individuals. Three widely used programs are public housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and the Section 8 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program. Individuals must meet certain criteria to receive assistance from any of these programs. Primarily, applicants must earn less than or up to a federally determined "eligibility income". The following sections describe these three programs and provide an explanation of eligibility criteria.

4.3.a.i Public Housing

Public Housing was first established as part of the 1949 Housing Act to "provide decent and safe rental housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities" (http://hud.govephrpog, (Last Visited March 22, 2000)). Public housing

complexes come in various forms including high rise towers, single family houses, town

houses, and low rise apartments. The Department of Housing and Urban Development

states that 1.3 million households live in public housing units under the management of

3,300 Housing Authorities throughout the United States (http://hud.gobphurog, (Last

Visited March 22, 2000)). To be eligible to live in public housing, households must be in

the category of low-income or very low income. HUD defines low-income as a

household income at or below 80% of the median income for the county or metropolitan

area in which the person lives. Very low income is defined as a household income at or

below 50% of the median income for the area. Along with meeting income criteria, to be

eligible for public housing applicants must also agree to follow the rules and regulations

of the program as set by the local housing authorities.

Local housing authorities receive funding from HUD to administer public housing.

Other funding comes from rent paid by the tenants, which in most cases[1] equals 30% of

the tenant's adjusted[2] annual income. This is called the Total Tenant Payment (TTP).

4.3.a.ii Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is designed to increase "affordable

housing choices for very low-income households by allowing families to choose privately

owned rental housing" (http://hud.govprogdescvoucher.html, (Last Visited March 22,

2000)). To be eligible, households must meet the same income criteria as public housing

applicants. Eligible households can apply to local housing authorities for a Section 8

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[1] Other cases would be; 10% of monthly income, welfare rent, if applicable, or $25 minimum rent or higher amount (up to $50) set by HA (http://www.hud.govphrog.html, (Last Visited March 22, 2000)).

[2] Adjusted income is referred to gross income after deductions such as number of dependents, out of pocket medical expenses, elderly family or a person with a disability. (http://hud.govphrog.html, (Last Visited March 22, 2000)).

voucher. Once issued, this voucher can be used to pay a portion of rent for a privately owned and managed housing unit. The household receiving the voucher is responsible to pay 30% of their adjusted annual income towards their rent. The local housing authority administering the voucher program is responsible to pay the landlord the difference between the amount paid by the household and the full rent amount. Local housing authorities receive HUD funding to pay for and administer the Section 8 program.

4.3.a.iii Section 8 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program

Recently, HUD announced a new Section 8 program called the Section 8 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher. This program was designed to increase the availability of Section 8 vouchers for individuals with disabilities. HUD's goal for the program is to "enable persons with disabilities who often have very low incomes and high medical expenses to rent housing of their choice in the private market by providing them with rental vouchers" (HUD, February 24, 2000). To qualify, individuals must not only meet the income criteria mentioned above, but must also have a verifiable disability.

As with standard Section 8 vouchers, HUD provides funding to local housing authorities to administer the program and fund rent payments for program participants living in privately owned and managed housing units. The voucher recipient must pay 30% of their adjusted annual income towards the rent. The local housing authority, through funding from this program, pays the remainder of the rent.

HUD also requires housing authorities receiving funding from this program to "help program participants access supportive services, but may not require eligible applicants or recipients to accept supportive services" (HUD, February 24, 2000). Participating housing authorities are also instructed to identify public and private funding sources to help pay

for any modifications necessary to allow program participants to access housing units in which they have the opportunity to live. The reason for these requirements is to encourage the use and integration of more local resources into the implementation of the program.

4.4 RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The various housing authorities in Rhode Island administer and implement the three programs described above. Also, Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, a quasi-public agency established by the state, administers both the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Section 8 Mainstream Voucher Program for communities with no municipal public housing authority. There are currently twenty-five housing authorities in Rhode Island. Combined, these housing authorities operate 10,107 units of public housing and administer 6,352 Section 8 vouchers (Rhode Island Housing, 2000, p.17). Appendix C provides a listing of the public housing authorities in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Consolidated Plan states that of the 10,107 units of public housing, there are 3, 754 units reserved for families and a combined 6,535 units for elderly and disabled households (Rhode Island Housing, 2000, p.17). Although this sounds like an abundant figure, the average waiting period for Elderly/Disabled Housing in the State is 2.5 years, 3-4 years for Family Housing, and 4-5 years for Section 8 vouchers.

It is the responsibility of the Rhode Island public housing authorities to serve the housing needs of the State's extremely low and moderate low-income population through the management and administration of these public housing units, Section 8 voucher

programs, and program waiting lists. To demonstrate how each authority will meet the housing needs of low income residents in their community, by Rhode Island law each housing authority is required to complete a Public Housing Agency Plan (PHA Plan). The PHA Plan must include the "agency's overall mission for serving low-income and very low income individuals and families, and the activities that will be undertaken to meet the housing needs of these households" (Technical Assistance Collaborative, 1999, p.14). The housing authority staff in consultation with a Resident Advisory Board must prepare this plan.

Each public housing authority is administered and managed by an Executive Director. Each authority also has a Board of Commissioners, appointed by the Town or City's elected legislative body, which oversees the Executive Director. Each month the Executive Directors of all of the State's housing authorities meet to review and discuss various issues including the rules, regulations, and new developments in housing programs. This group is known as the Executive Directors Association.

4.5 AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN RHODE ISLAND

The programs that best respond to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who wish to live in a community setting are the Section 8 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program and the traditional Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (formally known as the Section 8 Voucher and Certificate Program). In fact, the RI Consolidated Plan stated that "this is the preferred choice for people with developmental disabilities because it gives more personal choice for the type of housing and where within the community they would want to live" (R.I. Housing, 2000).

Although these programs will have a significant impact on improving the housing choices for people with developmental disabilities, there are still challenges and issues faced by housing authorities that administer these programs. Interviews with key stakeholders show that the primary challenge was the fact that most housing authorities have insufficient staff available for effective program management due to insufficient funding. Effective program management would include the ability to provide referral resources for support services and housing assistance for people on the programs. Additional assistance would include recruitment of landlords to participate in the Section 8 program, and assistance with helping participants locate available units.

4.6 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter described the current affordable housing options in Rhode Island for people with developmental disabilities. In addition, the chapter discussed the preferred housing program that most effectively meets the needs of people with developmental disabilities who prefer to live in a community setting and the challenges faced by the agencies responsible for administering these programs. The following chapter discusses the challenges faced by housing authorities in administering both of the Section 8 programs and the resources available for them to implement innovative housing practices.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter four discussed the current availability of affordable housing in Rhode Island, and the housing assistance programs available to people with developmental disabilities. In addition, the chapter ended with a brief discussion of the challenges Rhode Island's housing authorities confront when administering the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Section 8 Mainstream Voucher Program. This chapter will expand on these challenges, and describe the resources available to the housing authorities that could enable them to meet these challenges. Ultimately, by utilizing these resources the housing authorities could play an important role in community integration for people with developmental disabilities.

5.2 CHALLENGES

For the preparation of this report, many key stakeholders, described in Chapter 1, at various Rhode Island housing authorities were interviewed. Interviewees were asked about the challenges they face in the administration of both the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and the Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Programs. The primary challenge mentioned was the fact that most housing authorities have insufficient staff available for effective program management. Effective program management would include the ability to provide referral resources for support services and housing assistance for people on the programs. Additional assistance would include recruitment of landlords to participate in the Section 8 programs, and assistance with helping participants locate available units. The following sub-sections describe these challenges in greater detail.

5.2.a Support Services and Housing Assistance

Housing Authorities play a vital role within a community and, to many individuals, housing authority programs provide them with the ability to live a life of independence and to become contributing members of their community. Local housing authorities provide this service to many different populations. It is often difficult for housing authorities to understand the history and housing needs of each of the population groups. In addition, housing managers are often overwhelmed with attempting to meet both the housing and social needs of the populations that they serve. Most housing managers do not have the time to research the housing issues concerning certain population groups or the innovative housing practices that could more effectively meet their housing needs. Therefore, housing managers often rely on other support service providers to meet the social needs of the participants. However, often the housing manager is not aware of the support service delivery system. Therefore, it is difficult to know the best way to utilize particular resources.

5.2.b Recruitment of Landlords to Participate in the Section 8 Program

The second challenge is the recruitment of landlords to participate in the Section 8 Programs. There are several reasons why a landlord would choose not to rent to a person who receives Section 8 assistance. First, the Department of Housing and Urban Development does not allow recipients of Section 8 assistance to rent units that exceed a certain reasonable rent within a community. A landlord may wish to receive a higher rent for a unit than is allowed under the Section 8 programs. This is especially common during a growing economy when landlords can receive higher rents for their properties. This limits the number of units affordable to Section 8 participants. Also, some landlords may have had a bad experience with a previous Section 8 tenant leading to a poor perception of the Section 8 program. Lastly, landlords may not be

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educated on the programs and may not be clear about the incentives to participate in the programs.

5.2.c Assisting Participants to Locate Available Units

The third challenge is to assist participants who receive a Section 8 voucher to locate an available housing unit. The Section 8 Program Manager may or may not have a listing of available units. Many Section 8 Program Managers provide a listing of realtor agents and the participant is required to contact these agents and locate an apartment on their own. Once a person is issued a Section 8 Voucher they have a maximum of 120 days to locate a housing unit. The unit must then be approved by the housing authority. If a person is unable to locate a unit within the specified time, the voucher expires and is no longer valid. Therefore, for implementation of the Section 8 programs, participants must have access to timely information regarding available and satisfactory units.

Effective implementation of the goals of the Section 8 programs requires additional assistance from support service agencies and other existing community resources. The community resources available to Rhode Island's public housing authorities for the assistance of people with developmental disabilities are discussed in the following section.

5.3 RESOURCES

During the preparation of this report, it was found that there are a number of resources in Rhode Island's communities available to assist housing authorities to overcome the challenges to effective housing management that furthers the goals of community integration for people with developmental disabilities. Rhode Island is fortunate to have a resourceful support service delivery network, an innovative transportation system, strong advocacy groups, and community

institutions willing to provide various services. The following sub-sections describe these resources.

5.3.a Division of Developmental Disabilities

The mission statement, goals and objectives for the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the MHRH are all focussed on furthering successful community integration. They have the ability to access the funding resources to provide support service delivery to people with developmental disabilities. Their mission statement reads "that each person is unique and all should have the chance to develop and grow within a community of relationships" (http://www.mhrh.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). The Division works to create neighborhood support networks. The supports provided through the Division of Developmental Disabilities include service coordination, family support, provision of adaptive equipment, transportation, vocational services/supportive employment, community integration activities, emergency assistance, environmental adaptations, and home modifications, and housing supports (http://www.mhrh.ri.us, (Last Visited April 4, 2000)). These support services provide an excellent resource for housing authorities.

The Division also cosponsors a program, together with Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, known as Access Independence II. The program is a collaborative project that provides grants up to $50,000 to people with developmental disabilities, their families, or their caregivers to make modifications that improve accessibility to their homes (Power & Godfrey, 1999).

5.3.b Ocean State Association of Residential Resources

The Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR) is an organization that assists and represents the agencies that provide support service to people with developmental disabilities

in Rhode Island. OSARR is an extremely active association with a commitment to deliver support services to help individuals with developmental disabilities to become contributing members of their own community. OSARR could be a valuable resource to housing authorities because they are willing to learn about housing programs and provide the type of outreach and client assistance that housing authorities do not have the sufficient staff to provide. OSARR is committed to working closely with individuals who receive housing assistance to help them locate housing units. As a future strategy OSARR could work directly with the housing authorities to assist with landlord outreach, and building effective landlord relationships.

5.3.c Advocacy Organizations

The Advocacy Organizations that were discussed in Chapter 3 are also a valuable resource for local housing authorities. They speak to groups and agencies regarding disability related issues. Therefore, housing authorities staff would benefit from working with these organizations in a number of ways. For example, housing authority staff could learn about the abilities of people with developmental disabilities, empowering housing management practices, and effective communication skills for housing managers who need to explain the complicated rules and regulations of the Section 8 programs to people with developmental disabilities.

Another advocacy organization that would be a valuable resource for housing authorities is the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL) in Warwick. The OSCIL provides people with disabilities who want to live on their own with various services to help them achieve that goal. Services provided by OSCIL include information and referral, peer counseling, and independent skills training (OSCIL, 2000). Another organization similar to OSCIL is the PARI Independent Living Center in Pawtucket.

5.3.d Transportation

Rhode Island is fortunate to have an innovative statewide paratransit, or "door to door" transit, system, the RIde. The RIde system is regarded as a national model. In fact, in 1999 the RIde won the American Public Transportation Association award for best paratransit system in the United States. The RIde system is unique in that the various state agencies and authorities that by mandate, or under certain programs, provide certain individuals with paratransit service, all provide this service under one system. These agencies include MHRH, the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, and the Rhode Island Department of Human Services. These agencies are able to provide more effective transportation services through sharing the costs of program administration and vehicle purchase. Each of these agencies pays a per trip fee to the RIde system for every trip provided. MHRH pays for work based and medical trips on the RIde system for people with developmental disabilities throughout Rhode Island (O'Neil, 2000).

5.3.e Other Community Resources

Certain local high schools with vocational programs often provide work within a community to provide students with on the job learning experience. Community service learning programs could be valuable resources to a Section 8 Program Manager who is assisting a person in need of modifications to their apartment. There are also board of realtors and landlord associations in most communities. These organizations often invite guest speakers to their meetings. This forum could be utilized to promote the Section 8 programs.

5.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter examined the challenges that housing authorities often face when administering both of the Section 8 housing programs. The chapter also discussed the resources available to help overcome these challenges. It is important to keep in mind that the challenges discussed above, related to the Section 8 programs, are not just limited to people with developmental disabilities. However, the resources found within the service delivery and advocate groups representing this population provide an example of how utilizing resources for any type of population can be useful to improving the lives of people in need of affordable housing. Chapter six will discuss recommendations on how housing authorities can utilize these resources to perform their important role in community integration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RHODE ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY INTEGRATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter five provided an analysis of findings regarding the challenges that housing authorities face while administrating the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Section 8 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program. The chapter then described the resources available to housing authorities to help them meet the challenges of the Section 8 programs. This chapter will provide recommendations on how housing authorities can best use these resources. Specifically, this chapter will explain how a partnership between housing authorities, and the various support service agencies and advocacy organizations involved with the support of individuals with developmental disabilities could overcome all the challenges discussed. Lastly, the chapter will describe how this partnership will help housing authorities perform their valuable role in community integration for people with developmental disabilities.

6.2 RATIONALE FOR AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING AUTHORITIES, ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, AND SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS

As discussed in Chapter 5, the main challenges to effective implementation for Section 8 programs are: lack of knowledge concerning support services; difficulties in helping people locate accessible and safe housing; landlord recruitment; and program comprehension on the part of program applicants and participants. One observation made

during the preparation of this study is that there is a lack of communication between housing authorities and the groups who provide support services.

An effective way to deal with the challenges mentioned above would be to create a partnership to facilitate communication between public housing authorities, support service providers, advocacy organizations, program participants, and other community resources. The creation of these types of partnerships is firmly supported and encouraged by HUD. One important aspect of a partnership is the fact that partnerships are not only a product but also a process. In other words, it is not only a noun, but also a verb. The actions conducted within a partnership provide people with the opportunity to learn about their fellow partnership members through this facilitated interaction. The opportunity for all members to gain knowledge offers a great benefit to the client population. The partnership should include representatives from the following groups (as well as other groups interested in the issue):

- Advocates in Action (Perhaps someone receiving Section 8 assistance)
- Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council
- Ocean State Association of Residential Resources (OSARR)
- The Division of Developmental Disabilities (MHRH)
- Section 8 Coordinators
- Executive Director from a Housing Authority
- RIPTA or RIde
- Landlord Association or Realtor Association
- Rhode Island Housing and Finance Corporation
- Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
- Rhode Island Legal Services
- Rhode Island Housing Network

This partnership could meet regularly to discuss various issues and work jointly to find solutions to problems that prohibit a person with a developmental disability from living in

the community of their choice. Table 6.1 demonstrates how this type of partnership could

help address each of the challenges mentioned above.

TABLE 6.1 Benefits of an Active Partnership

CHALLENGE	BENEFIT PROVIDED BY PARTNERSHIP
Lack of knowledge concerning support services	Partnership members could sponsor education workshops concerning the support service delivery network for people with developmental disabilities in Rhode Island to local public housing authorities.
Assistance with helping Section 8 program participants to locate housing	Partnership members could create an electronic listing of available housing units in satisfactory areas (i.e safe and conveniently located to transit), and a listing of resources available for unit modifications.
Landlord recruitment	Partnership members could conduct landlord education workshops and marketing efforts, and maintain a statewide landlord database.
Program comprehension on the part of Section 8 participants and applicants	Partnership members could create user-friendly Section 8 forms and Section 8 program information for people who cannot comprehend standard forms and information packets.

The following subsections describe in more detail how the partnership could address each

of the challenges listed in Table 6.1.

6.2.a Lack of Knowledge of Current Support Service Delivery

As explained in Chapter 5, housing authorities provides assistance to many different

populations as part of the Section 8 programs. It is impossible for a Section 8 Coordinator

at a local housing authority to have expertise concerning all of these population groups,

the support services available to that population, and the system through which those

services are delivered. Housing authorities often rely on advocacy organizations and

support services to assist with housing services. However, to effectively use these

services to meet the social needs of Section 8 participants, housing authority staff must

first be aware of the wide range of available resources.

An active partnership, as described above, could provide Rhode Island's housing authorities with the education they need regarding the support service delivery network. The support service providers who belong to the partnership could organize and sponsor educational workshops regarding the needs of people with developmental disabilities and the support service delivery system available to them. Educational workshops could be provided to Section 8 Coordinators and Executive Directors of local housing authorities. The topics of the workshops could be organized through the partnership and could include:

(a) History of housing for people with developmental disabilities.

(b) Current support service delivery and active advocacy organizations in Rhode Island.

(c) Success stories of program participants.

In addition, the partnership could create a guide for housing authorities on a listing of support service and advocacy organizations throughout Rhode Island. With the assistance of the housing authorities, the partnership could sponsor workshops for individuals in need of Section 8 vouchers. The informational workshops could include:

(a) Waiting List Process (How it Works)

(b) Items Needed to Apply for Section 8 (Birth Certificate, Income Information)

(c) Explanation of Rules and Regulations of the Program

6.2.b Assistance with Helping Section 8 Participants Locate Housing

As listed in Table 6.1, the second challenge faced by housing authorities is how to assist Section 8 Voucher recipients with locating available and accessible housing units. With the assistance of the member social service providers and advocacy groups, the partnership could create a database listing available housing units throughout Rhode Island that are accessible, safe, and convenient to public transportation. The partnership could also provide a resource guide that has contact numbers of programs that provides funding for modifications for a unit. To establish this database, the partnership should place an advertisement in the Real Estate section of local newspapers and send notices to landlord and realtor associations asking property owners to provide the partnership with information regarding available units.

Having the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) as a member of the partnership would also be valuable in the creation and maintenance of this database. The representative from RIPTA could provide information regarding the level of transit service in proximity to the housing units in the database, and whether or not transit service in the area is scheduled to change. In addition, the RIPTA representative could ensure that the partnership members have up to date system map and schedule information.

6.2.c Landlord Recruitment

The recruitment of landlords is another challenge identified in Table 6.1. As mentioned in the above paragraph, working with landlord associations and realtors associations may be a good start. The partnership members could organize and present informational workshops to local landlord associations. The workshops could include information about the Section 8 Voucher programs and the incentives for landlords to participate in the program. These incentives may include guaranteed rent payments from the public housing authority (70%), or the support of other community resources like the strong support service delivery network. The workshop should also explain the extensive support network for people with developmental disabilities who want to live in their own apartment.

These workshops could be even more effective if a participating landlord who has a good relationship with current tenants was invited to speak about his or her experience. A person with a developmental disability who is currently receiving Section 8 assistance could also be invited to speak to the landlord group. This individual could speak about how important it is to them to have their own apartment, the condition in which they keep their unit, and their understanding of their responsibilities, including paying rent on time. As landlords learn more about the Section 8 programs, incentives available, the innovative support service delivery network, and their potential tenants, they may be more willing to participate in the program. Thereby expanding the number of units available to Section 8 participants.

6.2.d User-friendly Program Material

A report entitled "Write It Easy-to-Read: A guide to creating plain English materials (especially for the Medicaid market)" explained the importance of creating easy to read material and how to do it. The report stated that there was a mismatch between "consumer reading abilities and the requirements of medical materials provided through managed care environment" (Root and Stableford, 1997, p.5).

The report explains that if a "message is dense or the words are hard, the reader may not proceed at all. Most of the energy gets used up in decoding and little is left for the organizing and analyzing that is needed to use what has been read" (Root and Stableford, 1997, p.10). Therefore, if the reader first finds the words easy to understand then comprehension of the words is achieved. The guide demonstrates how ideas and points can be communicated with pictures or simple words. Although the guide used medical information as an example, it could be applied to housing authorities rules and regulations regarding the Section 8 programs.

Interviews with housing professionals, conducted for this report, found that housing authority staff relied heavily on case managers and support service providers to communicate the rules and regulations of the Section 8 programs to people with developmental disabilities who were issued a voucher. Housing authority staffs have found it difficult to explain the rules directly to the individual with the developmental disability because the rules and regulations are so complex. However, through the creation of the type of materials described in Root and Stableford's guide, it is possible to provide program material so that some individuals who have trouble reading may understand the Section 8 program themselves.

The partnership could work together in creating this "user-friendly" Section 8 program

material for the people receiving a Section 8 voucher. This will be a more empowering

situation for individual with a developmental disability. Appendix D shows key points

mentioned in the guide on how to create this type of material. The partnership could

distribute the user-friendly guide explaining the Section 8 programs to people who may

be applying for, or are currently receiving, Section 8 assistance.

6.3 ESTABLISHING AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP

Any of the groups mentioned above could take the initiative to bring these various

groups together. Each month the Executive Directors Association of Housing Authorities

meets to discuss current issues. Perhaps at one of their monthly meetings they could

invite representatives from the groups listed above to come to their meeting to begin

discussion concerning an active partnership between the groups. Also, the members of

OSARR meet on a regular basis, and also conduct an annual conference. OSARR could

take the lead in establishing this partnership by inviting the groups listed above to one of

their monthly meetings, or to their annual conference.

6.4 CONCLUSION

Rhode Island communities have an abundance of resources available for Rhode

Islanders with developmental disabilities. The overriding challenge is to enhance service

delivery through the effective and efficient use of each of the resources available. The

recommendations included in this study present strategies to enhance the services

provided to a particular group through the creation of partnerships that incorporate the

various community resources. This process does not have to be limited to people with developmental disabilities. However, it would be a good model to demonstrate the effectiveness of partnerships and the difference it could make in a person's life.

One of the interviews conducted for this paper was with a man named Jerry W. Jerry had been a resident of the Ladd Center then lived in a group home. With the help of a local housing authority, he now lives in his own apartment and has become a part of his community. When I went to his house he greeted me with a big smile and a friendly welcome inviting me into his home. I realized what an incredible asset he is to his community. He takes special care of his apartment, works at a local restaurant, and his smile alone brightens the community. He told me that he considers the Executive Director of the housing authority his "friend." Often, he goes and visits the Director to say hello. In fact, it was Jerry W. that reminded me of the importance of this paper and also how important it is to appreciate the opportunity to live independently and be part of a community.

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APPENDIX A
SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS SURVEY

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: __L.I.F.E Inc.__

   Contact Person __Tom Mc Aleer__ Ph# __254-2910__

2. Number of people the agency supports: __109__

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: __10__

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: __7__
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list?
   __7__

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _X_ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _X_

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _X_

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _X_ Warren _X_ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _X_ 2 bed _X_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? __2__

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   _____

   _____

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Looking Upwards_

   Contact Person _Angela Semonelli_ Ph# _847-0960_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _76_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _12_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _4_   Wanting to move from current public housing (safety) _3_
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _1_ Other A section 8 expired due to lack of housing

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol ____ Burrillville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown ____ Coventry ____ Cranston ____ Cumberland ____ East Greenwich ____

   East Providence ____ Exeter ____ Foster _____ Glocester ____ Hopkinton ____

   Jamestown ____ Johnston _____ Lincoln ____ Little Compton ____ Middletown *_7_

   Narragansett ____ Newport *_7_ North Kingstown _____ North Providence ____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence ____ Portsmouth *_7_

   Richmond _____ Scituate ____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____   *All 7 people are

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____   interested in

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket ____   the Aqdk Island.

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _1-2_ 2 bed _1-2_ 3 bed _1_ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _1_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations. Yes

   - Easy to understand housing program rules & regulations
   - Assistance w/(~~   ~~) locating housing options
   - Safety of home environment
   - Accessibility to busline and/or community
   - Affordability

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: *New England RMS*

   Contact Person *Donna Martin* Ph# *401·272·8924 x22*

2. Number of people the agency supports: *24*

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: *4*

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: *2*

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? *1*

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence *√* Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick *√* West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed *√* 2 bed _____ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? *0*

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   _____

   _____

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _The Ocean Center_

    Contact Person _Kathy Raubess_ Ph# _401-348-8380_

2. Number of people the agency supports _130 in day programs + vocational programs and in home children services_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _1_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _10_

    Out of those people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _1_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____
Charlestown _X_ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____
East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _X_
Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____
Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____
North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____
Richmond _X_ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____
Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____
West Warwick _____ Westerly _X_ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
    1 bed _X_ 2 bed _X_ 3 bed _X_ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _unknown_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

    affordability and community access.
    The Charity area tends to be remote.
    Charlestown and Richmond have no public
    housing available.

* _the agency just became certified to provide residential supports by the Division of Developmental Disabilities in January 2000._

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _UCP - RI_

   Contact Person _Michael Andrade_ Ph# _941-9377_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _177_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _69_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _6_

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _6_ .

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below.)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _1_

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _2_ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _2_ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _1_ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _____ 2 bed _6_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _6_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   Accessibility & effective property managers.

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Trudeau /KCRIARC_

   Contact Person _Jordan Scheff_ Ph# _738-3900x292_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _130_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _16_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _54_
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _25_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol ____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown ____ Coventry ____ Cranston ____ Cumberland ____ East Greenwich _✓_

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester ____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln ____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett ____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate ____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _✓_ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _✓_ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _6_   2 bed _19_   3 bed _____   4 bed _____   Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _2_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   _____

   _____

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Sparwink RI_

    Contact Person: _Joann Maladino_   Ph# _781-4380 - SA.121_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _Adults- 78_   _children- ST 65_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _10_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _/_

    Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _/_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

    Barrington _____   Block Island _____   Bristol ____   Burrilville ____   Central Falls _____

    Charlestown ____   Coventry____   Cranston ____   Cumberland ____   East Greenwich _/_

    East Providence ____   Exeter ____   Foster ____   Glocester ____   Hopkinton ____

    Jamestown____   Johnston _____   Lincoln ____   Little Compton ____ Middletown ____

    Narragansett ____ Newport _____   North Kingstown _____   North Providence ____

    North Smithfield _____   Pawtucket ____   Providence ____ Portsmouth _____

    Richmond ____   Scituate ____   Smithfield ____   South Kingstown _____

    Tiverton _____   Warren _____   Warwick ____   West Greenwich _____

    West Warwick _____   Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
    - 1 bed _____   2 bed _/_   3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _NA_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

    many of the adults live in apartments outside of public housing —
    persons supported in duplex settings funded by Sparwink RI

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: __ReFocus__

   Contact Person __Julie Derosier__ Ph# __272-1600__

2. Number of people the agency supports: __110__

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _____ _____ __25__

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: __7__
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? __4__

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol ____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown ____ Coventry __/__ Cranston ____ Cumberland ____ East Greenwich ____

   East Providence ____ Exeter ____ Foster _____ Glocester ____ Hopkinton ____

   Jamestown____ Johnston _____ Lincoln ____ Little Compton ____ Middletown ____

   Narragansett ____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence ____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence __X__ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate ____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick __X__ West Greenwich ____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed __4__ 2 bed __/__ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? __0__

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

(1) Long waits for affordable housing in safe neighborhoods

(2) Some referrals we recieve are people who have DD but also have been in prison - These people are not eligible for section 8 and all Forced to live in expensive - unaffordable - often unsafe houses.

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Opportunities Unlimited_

   Contact Person _Marilyn Drummond_ Ph# _463-7155 x204_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _30_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _12_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _10_

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _5_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _✓_ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _✓_ Cranston _✓_ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _✓_

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _✓_ Newport _____ North Kingstown _✓_ North Providence _✓_

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _✓_

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _____ 2 bed _✓_ 3 bed _✓_ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _0_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   — For the HA = ~~other~~ elderly residents being comfortable w/ younger DDD population

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: *Ocean State Community Resources*

   Contact Person *Jessie Away*   Ph# *437 - 0770*

2. Number of people the agency supports: *55*

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: *3*

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: *4*

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list?

   _____

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _✓_ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _✓_ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _✓_ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   - 1 bed _4_   2 bed _____   3 bed _____   4 bed _____   Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _1_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   _____

   _____

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1   Name of the Organization: _JRI_____

    Contact Person _Paige DiBiasio_____ Ph# _3979354_

2   Number of people the agency supports: ___4____

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: ___0____

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: ___0____
    Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? ___Na___

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below) _Na_

Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
    1 bed _____   2 bed _____   3 bed _____ 4 bed _____   Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _____

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

_____

_____

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Kristine Pierce_

   Contact Person _Gateways to Change_ Ph# _463-0000_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _74_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _25_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _0_

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list?
   _0_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _✓_ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _✓_ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _✓_ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _✓_ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _✓_ 2 bed _✓_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _2_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   - Affordable housing in decent areas
   - Following housing guidelines and regulations

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _John E. Fogarty Center_

   Contact Person _Mary Sue Tavares_ Ph# _353-7006_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _100 (Residential Program)_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _19_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _10_

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _10_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _✓_ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _✓_ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _✓_ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _✓_

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _✓_ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _✓_ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _✓_ 2 bed _✓_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _____

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   Concern re Sec 8 being available in the future. If people with disabilities secure Vouchers then they were no longer able to be renew where would their housing options (affordable) come from.

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: Bridge, Inc

   Contact Person: Martha Simmons   Ph# 423-1153

2. Number of people the agency supports: 43

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please **do not** include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: 10

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: 5

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? 2

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____   Block Island _____   Bristol _____   Burrilville _____   Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____   Coventry _____   Cranston _____   Cumberland _____   East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____   Exeter _____   Foster _____   Glocester _____   Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____   Johnston _____   Lincoln _____   Little Compton _____   Middletown X

   Narragansett _____   Newport X   North Kingstown _____   North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____   Pawtucket _____   Providence _____   Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____   Scituate _____   Smithfield _____   South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____   Warren _____   Warwick _____   West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____   Westerly _____   Woonsocket _____   Peace Dale X

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _____   2 bed / 3 bed / 4 bed / Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? n/a at This time

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   - affordable housing in safe environments

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _Avatar_

   Contact Person _Kathy Ellis_ Ph# _826-7500_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _48_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please **do not** include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: _4_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _2_

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? _2_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _/_ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _✓_ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _✓_ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _✓_ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _✓_ 2 bed _✓_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _0_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   people we support are not elderly so are not comfortable living in these types of housing (senior apartments.)

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for
People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: __The Arc of Northern Rhode Island__

   Contact Person __Al Vario_____ Ph# __765-3700...ext__. 183

2. Number of people the agency supports: __67__

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public
   housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting
   lists: ___0___

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not
   receiving any: ___9___
      Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list?
      ___9___

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing,
   including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please
   provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol ___ Burrilville _x_ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry_____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _X_ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Gloucester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown_____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _x_ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _x_ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _x_ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _X_

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed _____ 2 bed _X_ 3 bed _X_ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _/ 1_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports?
   For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

1) Affordable

2) Safe, convenient locations

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: *ARC of R.I.*

   Contact Person *Amelia F. Tabbut* Ph# *(401) 765-3700 X 192*

2. Number of people the agency supports: *Ind. Living Service support 59 people*

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: *33*

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: *4*
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? *4*

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol ____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown ____ Coventry ____ Cranston ____ Cumberland *1* East Greenwich _____

   East Providence ____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester ____ Hopkinton ____

   Jamestown ____ Johnston _____ Lincoln ____ Little Compton ____ Middletown ____

   Narragansett ____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence ____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate ____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick ____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket *3*

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed *✓* 2 bed _____ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? *0*

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   This dept. Provides support to 35 people living in their own apts. in the R.I. Community. They need support in the area's of household mgmt. ie. banking, budgeting, paying of bills, menu's Cooking, grocery shopping, reading mail, asst. w/ bus. & dentist appts. as well as support w/ self-advocacy issues.

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: The Corliss Institute Inc.

   Contact Person MARY E BREEN Ph# 401 245-3609 voice
   401 245-2223 TTY

2. Number of people the agency supports: 30

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: 6

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: 3-5
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? 2

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington ✓ Block Island _____ Bristol ✓ Burrillville _____ Central Falls _____

   Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _____ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____

   East Providence ✓ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____

   Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____

   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____

   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____

   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____

   Tiverton _____ Warren ✓ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____

   West Warwick _____ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed 2 2 bed 2 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? 0

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   Since we serve Deaf adults it is important for us to develop an assisted living and nursing homes that are accessible for the community.

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for
People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: _COVE Center_

    Contact Person _Lori Marberger_ Phi _274-6310 #449_

2. Number of people the agency supports: _70_

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public
    housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting
    list: _0_

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not
    receiving any: _20_
    Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list?
    _1_

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing,
    including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please
    provide information by community on the lines below)

    Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____
    Charlestown _____ Coventry _____ Cranston _✓_ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____
    East Providence _✓_ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____
    Jamestown _____ Johnston _____ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____
    Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _✓_
    North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _✓_ Providence _✓_ Portsmouth _____
    Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____
    Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick _____ West Greenwich _____
    West Warwick _✓_ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
    1 bed _4_ 2 bed _8_ 3 bed _____ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? _0_

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports?
    For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.
    Affordability + transportation access
    to jobs in the Greater Providence area

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: *Easter Seals RI / Cranston Arc*

   Contact Person *Michelle Bouchard* Ph# *826-7100 ext. 103*

2. Number of people the agency supports: *300*

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: *19*

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: *14*

   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? *8*

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____
   Charlestown _____ Coventry ✓ Cranston ✓ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich ✓
   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____
   Jamestown _____ Johnston ✓ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____
   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown ✓ North Providence ✓
   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence ✓ Portsmouth _____
   Richmond _____ Scituate ✓ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown ✓
   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick ✓ West Greenwich _____
   West Warwick ✓ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed *5*   2 bed *3*   3 bed *2*   4 bed _____   Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? *1*

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   fire & safety precautions

The Potential Role of Rhode Island's Housing Authorities in Furthering Community Integration for People with Developmental Disabilities.

fax 295-5462

Affordable Housing Needs Survey

1. Name of the Organization: West Bay Residential Services

   Contact Person Michelle Rosello   Ph# 401-738-9300

2. Number of people the agency supports: 130

3. Number of people the agency supports currently receiving Section 8 or living in public housing. Please do not include individuals currently on public housing or Section 8 waiting lists: ___1___

4. Number of people the agency supports in need of Section 8 or public housing, but currently not receiving any: _____
   Out of these people, how many are currently on a public housing or Section 8 waiting list? ___1___

5. In which Rhode Island city/town are people the agency supports looking for assisted housing, including those individuals currently on a public housing or section eight waiting list? (Please provide information by community on the lines below)

   Barrington _____ Block Island _____ Bristol _____ Burrilville _____ Central Falls _____
   Charlestown _____ Coventry ✓ Cranston ✓ Cumberland _____ East Greenwich _____
   East Providence _____ Exeter _____ Foster _____ Glocester _____ Hopkinton _____
   Jamestown _____ Johnston ✓ Lincoln _____ Little Compton _____ Middletown _____
   Narragansett _____ Newport _____ North Kingstown _____ North Providence _____
   North Smithfield _____ Pawtucket _____ Providence _____ Portsmouth _____
   Richmond _____ Scituate _____ Smithfield _____ South Kingstown _____
   Tiverton _____ Warren _____ Warwick ✓ West Greenwich _____
   West Warwick ✓ Westerly _____ Woonsocket _____

6. What type of housing units are needed (enter the number of each type)?
   1 bed ✓ 2 bed ✓ 3 bed ✓ 4 bed _____ Other _____

7. How many handicapped accessible units are needed? Many

8. What are your most important issues regarding housing for the people your agency supports? For example: comprehension of housing program rules and regulations.

   Most individuals need handicap accessability and to live in a setting with 1/2 people.

APPENDIX B
SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ADVOCACY GROUPS
IN RHODE ISLAND

Ocean State Association of Residential Resources

1130 TEN ROD ROAD, C-104, NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI 02852
TEL. (401) 295-5757   FAX (401) 295-5462
E-mail: osarr@msn.com

OSARR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARC OF NORTHERN RI

320 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
765-3700   Fax -765-1124
Al Vario Dot Zanella
Marilyn Lavallee

AVATAR

33-A College Hill Road
Warwick, RI 02886
826-7500 Fax - 826-7503
Kathy Ellis   Cathy Valade

BLACKSTONE RESIDENTIAL

500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
722-8960   Fax - 727-2637
Cathy Alber   Kathy Hunt
Linda Dvelis (Dimensions)
Peter Holden   (BV RIARC)
115 Manton St., Pawt. 02860
727-0150 Fax - 727-0153

BRIDGES

PO Box 263
Jamestown, RI 02835
423-1153   Fax - 423-3879
Lisa Rafferty   Ray Ross
Martha Simmons

CORLISS INSTITUTE

292 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885
245-3609 Fax - 245-9565
Mary Ellen Breen
Arthur Abraham

C.O.V.E.

866 Broadway
East Providence, RI 02915
438-2459 Fax - 434-7180
Mike Smith Lori Marburger

Groden Center
86 Mt. Hope Avenue
Providence, RI 02906
274-6310   Fax - 421-3280

EASTER SEALS RI/ CRANSTON ARC

905 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
941-1112 Fax -941-2516
Lesley Mellor

665 Dyer Ave, Cranston 02920
942-2388 Fax 944-7480
Sharon Stewart   Kevin McHale
Michelle Bouchard

FOGARTY RESIDENTIAL

220 Woonasquatucket Avenue
No. Providence, RI 02911
353-7000 Fax - 353-0320
Mary Sue Tavares   Jim Brown

GATEWAYS TO CHANGE

11 Knight Street, #B-6
Warwick, RI 02886
463-0000   Fax - 463-0010
Cathy McGillivray Chris Girard
Barbara Bedrosian

JUSTICE RESOURCE INSTITUTE (JRI)

555 Plain Meetinghouse Road
West Greenwich, RI 02817
397-9354 Fax – 392-3251
Paige DiBiasio

LA PLANTE CENTER

PO Box 56
Peace Dale, RI 02883
884-8825 Fax 782-8481
Kathy Rogers

L.I.F.E., INC.

PO Box 449
Tiverton, RI 02878
254-2910 Fax - 254-2912
Larry Wiedenhofer
Matt Murphy

LOOKING UPWARDS, INC.

Irongate II
438 East Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
847-0960 Fax - 849-0290
Gloria Perry
Karen McGee-Brown

NEW ENGLAND RMS

260 West Exchange Street
Suite 203
Providence, RI 02903
272-8926   Fax 272-8927
Donna Martin   Rob Mann

OCEAN STATE COMMUNITY RESOURCES (O.S.C.R.)

1445 Wampanoag Trail, #206
East Providence, RI 02915
437-0770   Fax - 437-1030
David Reiss   Josie Avery
Maura Mahoney

OLEAN CENTER

93 Airport Road
Westerly, RI 02891
596-2091 Fax – 596-3945
Kathy Raubens

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED

PO Box 20123
Cranston, RI 02920
463-7155 Fax- 463-5951
Linda Ward
Marilyn Drummond

PERSPECTIVES

1130 Ten Rod Road, B-101
No. Kingstown, RI 02852
294-3990 Fax - 294-9879
Dave Ruppell   Judy Niedbala
Dale Smalley   Janine Kroll

ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES
FOR HOUSING AUTHORITIES

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council
14 Harrington Road
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 462-3191
www.riddc.org

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living
59 West Shore Road
Warwick, RI 02889
(401) 738-1013
www.oscil.org

The Department of Mental Health, Retardations, and Hospitals
14 Harrington Road
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 462-3201
www.mhrh.state.ri.

Advocates in Action
Box 41528
Providence, RI 02940
(401) 785-2028
www.aina-ri.org

PARI Independent Living Center
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860
(401) 725-1966

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority/Paratransit Services (401) 784-9553

APPENDIX C
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

RHODE ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Bristol Housing Authority
P.O. Box 535
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809
(401) 253-4464

Burrillville Housing Authority
Ashton Court, Chapel Street
Burrillville, Rhode Island 02830
(401) 568-6200

Central Falls Housing Authority
30 Washington Street
Central Falls, Rhode Island 02863
(401) 727-9090

Coventry Housing Authority
14 Manchester Circle
Coventry, Rhode Island 02816
(401) 828-4367

Cranston Housing Authority
50 Birch Street
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920
(401) 944-7210

Cumberland Housing Authority
1 Mendon Road
Cumberland, Rhode Island 02864
(401) 334-2786

East Greenwich Housing Authority
146 First Street
East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818
(401) 885-2610

East Providence Housing Authority
99 Goldsmith Avenue
East Providence, Rhode Island 02914
(401) 434-7645

Jamestown Housing Authority
P.O. Box 464
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835
(401) 423-1561

Johnston Housing Authority
8 Forand Circle
Johnston, Rhode Island 02919
(401) 231-2007

Lincoln Housing Authority
10 Franklin Street
Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865
(401) 724-8910

Narragansett Housing Authority
P.O. Box 388
Narragansett, Rhode Island 02882
(401) 789-9489

Newport Housing Authority
One York Avenue
Newport, Rhode Island 02840
(401) 847-0185

North Providence Housing Authority
947 Charles Street
North Providence, Rhode Island 02904
(401) 728-0930

Pawtucket Housing Authority
P.O. Box 1303
Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860
(401) 725- 9113

Portsmouth Housing Authority
P.O. Box 118
Portsmouth, RI 02871
(401) 683-3173

RHODE ISLAND HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Providence Housing Authority
100 Broad Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
(401) 751-6400

Smithfield Housing Authority
7 Church Street
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02828
(401) 949-0270

South Kingstown Housing Authority
P.O. Box 6
Peacedale, Rhode Island 02883
(401) 783-0126

Tiverton Housing Authority
99 Hancock Street
Tiverton, Rhode Island 02878
(401) 624-4748

Warren Housing Authority
20 Libby Lane
Warren, Rhode Island 02885
(401) 245-7019

Warwick Housing Authority
25 Easton Avenue
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
(401) 463-7206

West Warwick Housing Authority
62 Robert Street
West Warwick, Rhode Island 02893
(401) 822-9430

Westerly Housing Authority
5 Chestnut Street, Chestnut Court
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891
(401) 596-4918/4919

Woonsocket Housing Authority
679 Social Street
Woonsocket, Rhode Island, 02895
(401) 767-8000

Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage
Finance Corporation
44 Washington Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
(401) 751-5566

APPENDIX D
HOW TO CREATE USER-FRIENDLY MATERIAL

Jane Root and Sue Stableford wrote a publication called *"Write it Easy-to Read" A Guide to Creating Plain English Materials (especially for the Medicaid Market).* One of the areas in the publication was a checklist for Easy to Read Materials (p. 13, 1997). Below are a few examples from the checklist:

Organization
- "Headers and Summaries aid organization and provide message repetition."
- "Information is organized and presented from a user's perspective; that is, it's "chunked" and sequence in a way logical to the intended user(s)."

Writing Style
- "Bullets are used for lists."
- "There is little or no technical jargon, but when necessary, it's explained."

Appearance
- "The print is at least 12 to 14 point with a serif. Clean, simple letter styles are used with no more than 2 or 3 diverse styles on any page."
- "Emphasis is achieved with boxes, underlining, bolding, or increased print sizes as appropriate."

Illustrations
- "Illustrations are simple, without unnecessary clutter, and fit the intended audience."
- "Illustrations are used to attract attention and re-emphasized the text."