



Housing for Young Adults with Disabilities- Where do We Start?

1. Contact your county's Human Services department or Aging and Disability Resource Center to apply for services when your teen is 17 years, 9 months. Adult services funding will cover certain services such as Day Services, Supportive Home Care (laundry, housekeeping and other care needs of the home, etc.), but not for Room & Board.), social and recreational activities and sometimes transportation.

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/Generalinfo/RCs.htm>

2. Apply for SSI/Social Security for your teen the month after they turn 18 years. If applications are received before then, parental income is taken into the equation and eligibility may be denied. (SSI money can be used for room and board.)

www.ssa.gov

3. Apply for Section 8 Housing Vouchers, through the housing department of your city and county, if possible.

http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/about/fact_sheet.cfm

4. Learn about the variety of housing options in your community:

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer/ResidOpts/defntns.htm>

Adult Family Homes (AFH)

Community-Based Residential Facilities/Group Homes (CBRF)

Assisted Living Facilities – (Residential Care Apartment Complex – RCAC)

Supported living –

apartment or home ownership

agency owned or independent

<http://www.hud.gov/apps/section8/index.cfm?CFID=16711309&CFTOKEN=33092335>

Decide together with your son or daughter the best type of living arrangements for him or her. Together, visit many of the various housing options and talk with the staff and the residents, if possible. Ask lots of questions! Talk with your son or daughter or observe their reactions during the visits to help them decide where they want to live. Ask for a list of references so that you can speak to guardians or residents at another time; when they are free to talk about the pros and cons of that environment. Ask how services are funded. Sometimes shared expenses are necessary. In choosing a roommate, find someone that you can live with. Roommates do not have to be best friends or do everything together but they do need to be compatible.

<http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/bqaconsumer/ResidOpts/seek.htm>



Consider:

- Calling some of the licensed agencies that provide supported/independent living and ask if you can take a tour.
- Checking with the Better Business Bureau: <http://www.bbb.org/us/>
- Checking, if they are licensed with the state, if there are any citations <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver/contacts/Complaints.htm>

Resource and Planning Suggestions

-Plan to include accommodations for your child's disabilities but don't let the disabilities be the only factor to consider. All of us look for specific qualities to be found in our home. What are the universal aspects of "home" that we want to include in our plans for our child's future home?

-Resource planning that factors in reliance on SSI, Medicaid, etc. A good start is *One Step Ahead*, the booklet written by Roy Froemming. His *Threshold* series of booklets on resource planning related to housing is an excellent supplement.

-Person centered planning: recruiting a small team of people who know the person and using PATH, Personal Futures Planning, or other person-centered planning method, to chart a future vision and identify the steps and a timeline to get there. This type of planning is particularly suited to situations where parents are going to navigate multiple systems and where they may feel at a disadvantage working within a system's constraints.

