



# Autism Housing Pathways: Building Roads to Home

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NLM Family Foundation  
Living with Autism in Adulthood Workshop  
July 18, 2012



# AHP's origins

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- Began as a group of parents interested in creating self-directed housing for our family members with autism
  - Began meeting in June 2009
  - Explored what other groups have done
  - Researched funding sources
  - Engaged in a visioning process using the PATH tool



# A realization

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- While many in the group shared a vision, there was a range of support needs, price points, and geographic locations
- Need for an umbrella group to:
  - Do research
  - Create different models
  - Incubate and support housing groups



# AHP's mission

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- Family training and capacity building
- Improve professional development for direct support staff
- Capacity building in the public, non-profit and private housing sectors to support tenants with autism
- Develop a matrix of housing models
- Educate policy makers



# Family training and capacity building

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- Turning 18 Checklist
- “Thinking About Housing” presentation
- “Housing Opportunities Available” webpage
- Venue for families to connect via listserv, website, Facebook, meetings



# Family training and capacity building, cont'd.

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- Person-centered planning available using MAPS and PATH (fee-for-service)
- Day-long housing workshops coming this fall, with materials based on the outcome of AHP's housing survey
- "18? Section 8!" video to be released when supporting website is launched



# Professional development for direct support staff

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- Free video series aimed at new hires or GED students considering this field:
  - “Learning About Reinforcement” (filming complete)
  - “What is Autism?” (2013)
  - “Using Pictures and Technology to Support People with Autism” (2014)
  - “Sensory Regulation” (2015)



# Professional development for direct support staff, cont'd.

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- Volunteers available to train staff in “Quality Behavioral Competencies (Basic Series)”
  - Cost of materials only (\$25/person)
  - One day training
- Will develop “Seal of Approval” for vendors who adopt an AHP-approved hierarchy of trainings





# Capacity building in the housing sector (prospective)

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- Workshops for developers and property managers:
  - Autism and the Built Environment
  - Supporting Your Tenant with Autism
- Rubrics for property managers and tenants:
  - Cleaning a kitchen
  - Cleaning a bathroom
  - Managing plumbing problems
  - Doing laundry
  - “Quiet enjoyment”



# Develop a matrix of housing models

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- Identify models to meet a range of support needs and available family resources
  - Construct basic matrix by assessing what others have already done (complete – will need ongoing updating and refinement)
  - Brainstorm new models to fill gaps
  - Identify hard-to-serve profiles
- Provide families with information on each model, including approximate costs, possible funding streams, boilerplate documents, process guides, possible “bumps in the road”



# Educate policy makers

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- Share information on:
  - Scope of autism housing demand
    - At least 10,000 individuals with autism in Mass. will need affordable housing over the next 20 years
  - Nature of autism housing demand
    - Survey results, including staffing levels and types of supports needed
  - Hard-to-serve profiles that may require new support systems



[www.autismhousingpathways.net](http://www.autismhousingpathways.net)