



**State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services
Housing Innovation Pilot Project Report**

Pursuant to Special Act No. 18-2

March 25, 2019

**Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner**

**Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner**

Pursuant to section 2 of Special Act No. [18-2](#), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) launched a Housing Innovation Pilot project at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2019. The purpose of this pilot project is to establish and evaluate alternative service models in which individuals who are currently receiving residential services may move from their existing residential settings, with the consent of the individual or such individual's legal representative, to a more independent, less restrictive residential setting.

In total, the housing pilot is projected to provide supports to approximately 37 individuals with intellectual disability. The department strongly believes that independent, integrated housing is an important piece in the continuum of residential services to ensure individuals with intellectual disability are able to thrive in their communities. To this end, Special Act No. 18-2 also allows DDS qualified providers to retain any cost savings associated with the pilot and use such savings either to meet the needs of other individuals eligible and waiting for residential services from the department or to improve or enhance the services such qualified provider provides to individuals with intellectual disability.

DDS is eager to continue this collaborative work with the department's network of qualified providers and share anticipated successful outcomes with the future goal of developing an innovative model that can be replicated across the state to support the housing needs of individuals with intellectual disability.

As of December 2018, based upon DDS's review of application submissions, DDS selected three qualified providers to participate in the Housing Innovation Pilot project, one in each of DDS's regions. Below is an overview of each provider's collaborative work.

South Region Housing Innovation Pilot Project

The DDS South Region is working collaboratively with Midstate Arc as one of the three providers statewide selected to participate in the Housing Innovation Pilot project. The South Region pilot is projected to support up to 20 individuals with intellectual disability. The region and Midstate Arc have been meeting on an ongoing basis since late 2018 to develop and implement plans to move individuals from 24/7 residential settings to a more independent residence.

Specific to the residential property, Midstate Arc has developed a relationship with a landlord who has committed to provide 8 to 10 apartments that will be integrated throughout a Meriden apartment complex. This apartment complex is accessible to mass transit and within walking distance of numerous community amenities.

On January 1, 2019, the first individual moved from a Midstate Arc community living arrangement with 24/7 supports into her own apartment in the newly-developed Housing Innovation Pilot apartment complex. The individual utilizes Individualized Home Supports and assistive technology to decrease her reliance on staff and to increase her independence. As an additional safety measure, overnight staff are located in the apartment building if a need should arise. As more individuals move into this apartment complex, the cost of this overnight staff will

be shared among all individuals. The department, Midstate Arc and the individual agree that the move has been successful and the individual has expressed that she is enjoying her freedom.

On February 9, 2019, a second individual moved from a Midstate Arc community living arrangement that had 24/7 supports into her own apartment in the Housing Innovation Pilot apartment complex. As of March 1, 2019 this individual was in the process of transitioning from 24 hour supports to a more independent environment within her own apartment. Assistive technology also is being trialed to assist this individual in increasing her independence. Given the results of the individual's assessment thus far, it is anticipated that the hours of staff supervision will decrease considerably within three months.

Midstate Arc's goal is to continue to assist individuals in moving from 24/7 supervised settings into apartments that utilize individualized assistive technology to help them achieve greater independence and community integration.

The department anticipates that cost savings will be achieved when the fifth or sixth individual completes the transition into the integrated apartment complex.

North Region Housing Innovation Pilot Project

The DDS North Region is working collaboratively with Oak Hill Industries, Inc. on the Housing Innovation Pilot project. The North Region pilot is projected to support up to nine individuals with intellectual disability. The pilot will utilize an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team model to provide support for individuals to live in a community-based, cluster-style apartment setting, with the goal of creating independence.

The ACT Team model takes a whole-person approach to supporting program participants with intellectual disability. A team of staff members will be available to the residents supported within the ACT Team residential area. Oak Hill also offers additional services and resources including assistive technology, adaptive equipment, healthcare technology, smart home technology, and healthy relationship support, which the department and Oak Hill anticipate weaving into the residences to help meet individualized needs of each resident to foster the achievement of the individual's self-defined goals to integrate successfully into their community.

DDS and Oak Hill are in the process of selecting a location for this residence. The location will be selected based on accessibility to stores, restaurants, a library, banks, medical offices, a gym, a bus line and alternate modes of transportation. Once the property is selected a more detailed work plan will be developed to include action steps, proposed timeline and funding details.

West Region Housing Innovation Pilot Project

The DDS West Region is working collaboratively with the Arc of Waterbury on the Housing Innovation Pilot project. The West Region pilot is projected to support up to eight individuals

with intellectual disability. The residences will be integrated with apartments or other types of housing whose occupants do not have a disability.

The tentative plan for this project includes two individuals transitioning from Community Living Arrangements or Continuous Residential Supports; two individuals transitioning from Community Companion Homes; and four individuals moving from family homes who have personal supports or who need residential supports. It is anticipated that each of these individuals will have 10 to 20 hours of staff support depending on their level of need and whether the individual needs access to the overnight, awake staff in the building. In addition, assistive technology will be an important component of the success of this project. DDS will assist the Arc of Waterbury in securing assessments and funding of assistive technology.

The Arc of Waterbury and DDS are working to select a location in the greater Waterbury area that not only would promote an individual's social growth, community integration and independence, but also would maintain fiscal responsibility in terms of housing costs and renovations.

The agency's vision is to purchase a building and transform 12 to 14 apartments for both persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities. All of the apartments in the building would be rented at market value.

Once the building has been identified and purchased, a more detailed work plan will be developed. This will include action steps, proposed timelines and funding details.