

COLLABORATIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

**FOR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)**

**A PRESENTATION DEVELOPED FOR
OMSSA EXCHANGE CONFERENCE 2025**

BY: CHRISTINA HALL & BAMBI PEPE



SESSION TALKING POINTS

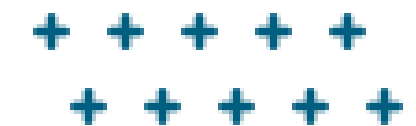
**WHAT IS INCLUSIVE
HOUSING**

**THE INCLUSIVE
HOUSING NETWORK
GUIDE**

**REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES
OF INCLUSIVE HOUSING
NETWORKS FROM ACROSS
ONTARIO**

**WAYS OMSSA MEMBERS
CAN LEAD, INFLUENCE,
AND SUSTAIN INCLUSIVE
HOUSING EFFORTS**

WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE HOUSING MEAN TO YOU?



UNDERSTANDING THE NEED FOR INCLUSIVE HOUSING

Broader housing challenges are making the situation even more urgent

- Accessibility is limited
- Planning gaps persist
- **Affordability is a critical barrier.** Rental costs are rising far faster than disability benefits like ODSP, leaving many unable to afford market rent

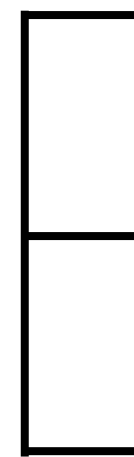
When these needs go unaddressed, the consequences are felt across the system

- Increased use of emergency services
- Inappropriate placements in hospitals or long-term care facilities
- Reliance on shelters or unstable housing

INCLUSIVE HOUSING: A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The Inclusive Housing Network Guide - a practical tool to support the planning and creation of inclusive housing across Ontario.

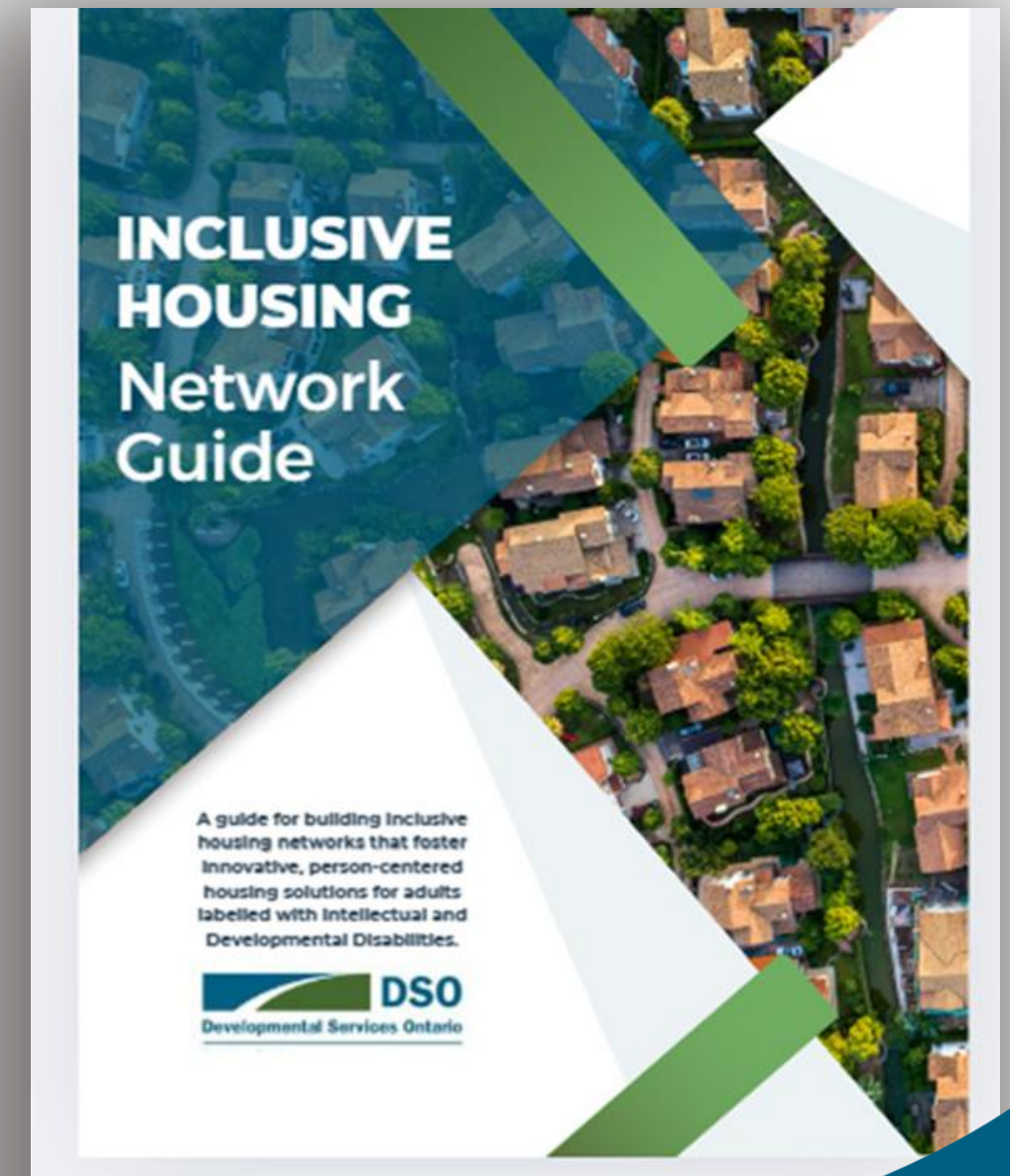
A limited number of printed guides are available today.
You can also download the electronic version.

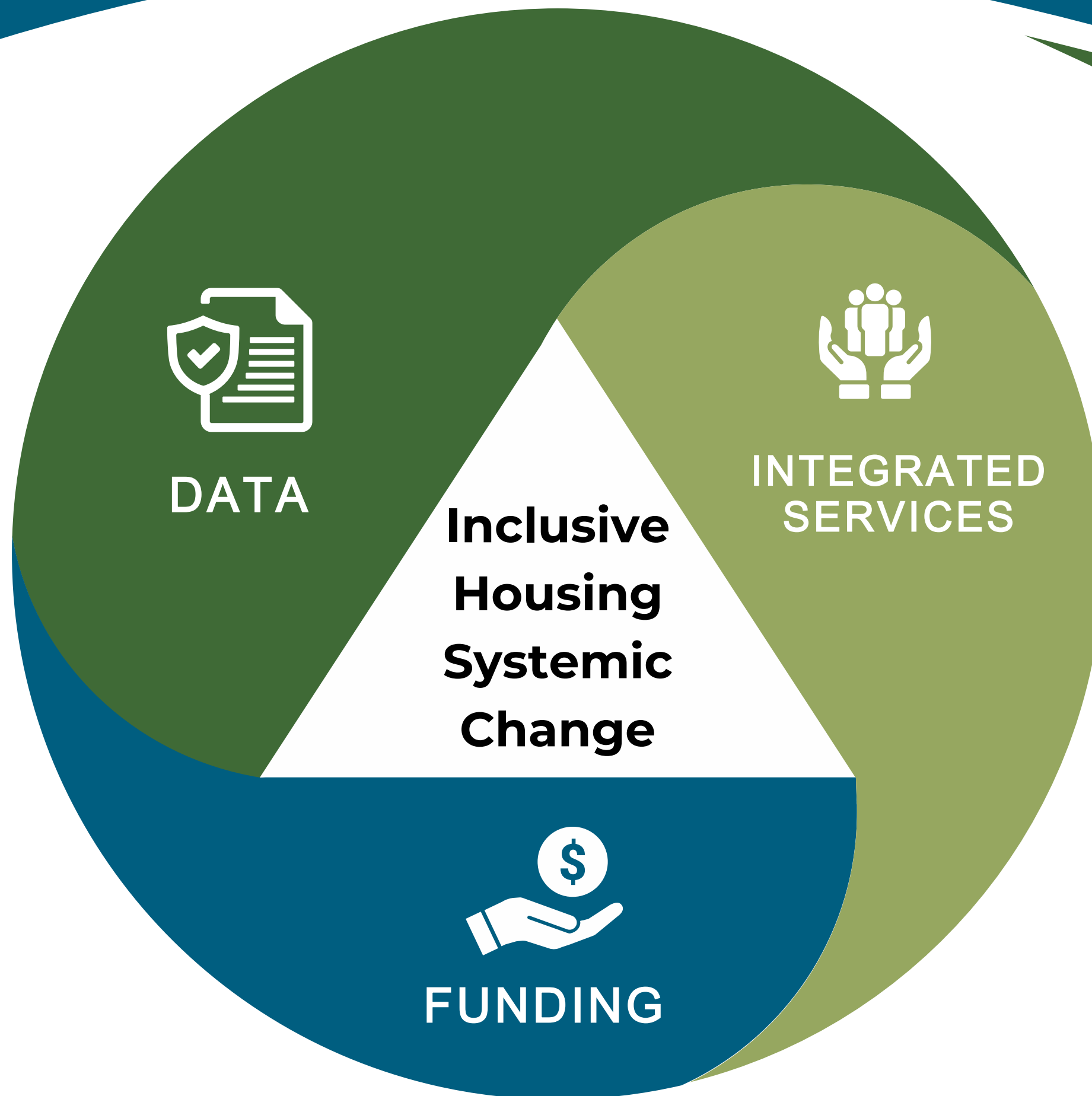


TOOLS & FRAMEWORKS

RESEARCH & DATA

STRATEGIES TO ENGAGE VARIOUS
STAKEHOLDERS

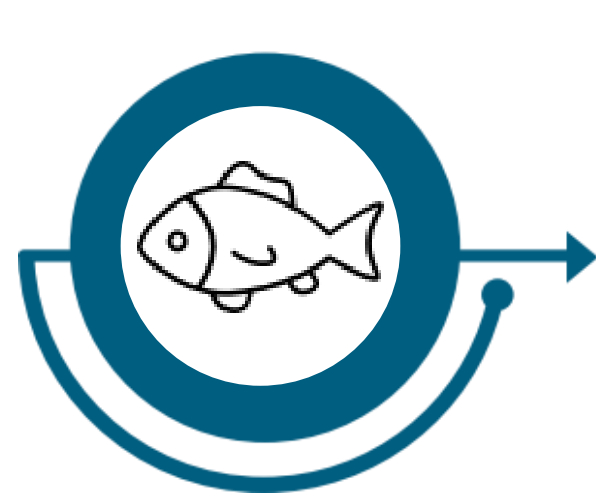




DRIVING SYSTEMIC CHANGE: DATA, FUNDING AND INTEGRATION

Housing change requires a systemic foundation built on data, funding, and integration.

INCLUSIVE HOUSING NETWORK EXAMPLES



Kenora



Sudbury



Peel



Waterloo

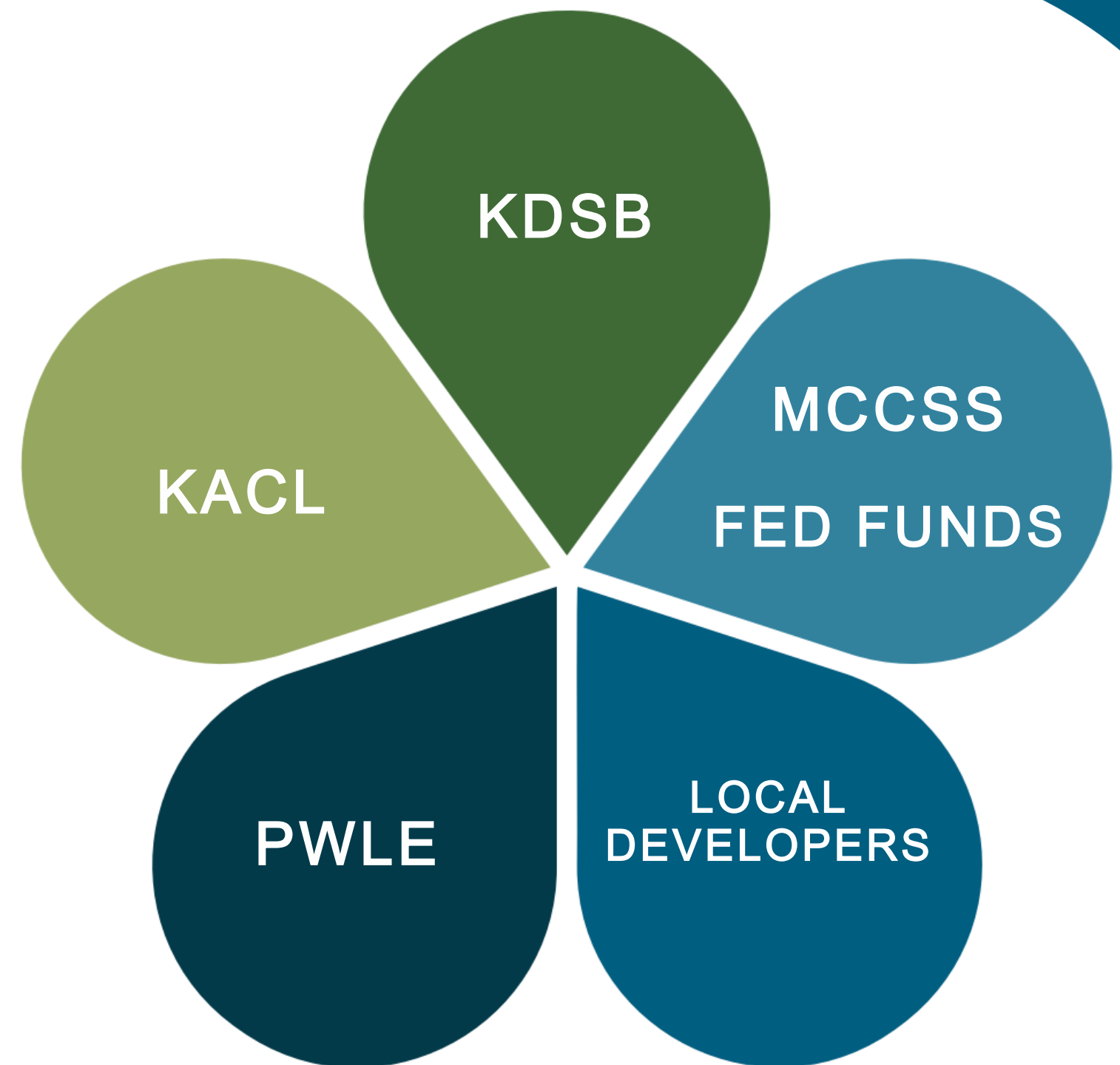


*inclusion
Matters*

KENORA: KACL & KDSB

The Inclusive Housing Network Guide highlights the value of cross-sector collaboration, person-centered planning, and leveraging community strengths. The partnership between Kenora Association for Community Living (KACL) and the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) brings these principles to life.

- 2020 - Created 21 supportive housing units for transitional-aged youth with IDD
- July 2024 - announced new 6-unit supportive housing complex



SUDBURY: HOUSING STRATEGY WORKING GROUP



SHARED LEADERSHIP

Sudbury HSWG demonstrates shared leadership by uniting cross-sector partners who combine their strengths to create inclusive housing solutions through trust, coordination, and a shared vision.

SYSTEM NAVIGATION

Sudbury HSWG exemplifies system navigation by aligning housing and developmental services, coordinating supports, and creating clear pathways that help individuals with IDD access and maintain inclusive housing.

COMMUNITY ALIGNMENT

Sudbury HSWG demonstrates community alignment by engaging local leaders, service providers, and landlords to collectively respond to housing needs, ensuring inclusive solutions reflect and serve the broader community.



PEEL: THE UNITI BUILDING

The example of these partnerships show how a shared vision, coordinated leadership, and a commitment to inclusive, community-integrated housing leads to housing solutions that promote choice, accessibility, and belonging for adults with IDD.

WATERLOO REGION

Waterloo Region offers a strong example of an inclusive housing network in action. They have:

- Partnered with their local DSO providing COHB allocations directly to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- Included a Developmental Services Agency in the Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Table in their region
- Collaborated with the DSO to remove barriers to their housing application



HOW OMSSA MEMBERS CAN LEAD INCLUSIVE HOUSING CHANGE

You are already working at the intersection of housing, social services, and policy --and this gives you the ability to:



Bridge Gaps



Align & Leverage
Funding



Center Lived
Experience



Embed Inclusion in
Strategy & Policy

Inclusive Housing Strengthens People and Systems

Emergency
Services



Economy
/ Jobs



Community



WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE HOUSING MEAN TO ADULTS WITH IDD?



“My ideal living situation would probably be not living with my parents—partly because I'm too old for that. I'd like to live with my future boyfriend (whoever that may be), maybe my best friend or a close friend. Possibly even one of my sisters—if they don't drive me completely insane at the time!

Hopefully, there would be a dog, and we'd live in an apartment—or maybe even a house that we're renting, or something along those lines. What matters most is that it gives me, gives us, a sense of independence. That's what we would love to have.”





“Right now, I’m livin’ in my ideal situation. I lived with my mom for so many years, and I really wanted my own independency—my own space. Now I can cook for myself, have my friends over, and go to bed when I want to. I like doin’ my crafts and havin’ my own schedule. I don’t gotta ask nobody. It’s my space, and I can do what I want.

One of the biggest challenges for adults with disabilities is findin’ housin’ that fits what we need. The waitlists are so long—like ten years sometimes. People with disabilities, we wanna be on our own. We like cookin’, we like havin’ our friends over, and not bein’ told what to do all the time. Havin’ our own independency—it’s so important. It means a lot.”

Over the past year, my life has improved a lot since finding stable housing. Before I got this apartment, everything felt uncertain. At my last place, I only had a few months—maybe a year—before I'd have to leave. I was constantly worried, always thinking, "Where are we going to go next? Where can I even apply to get a roof over our heads?" It was really stressful and anxious-inducing.

I also had to think about my roommate—my favorite person in the world—because we live together. So it wasn't just me I was worried about. It was a lot to carry.

Now that we have a place, everything feels more easy. With the biggest worry—housing—out of the way, I can finally focus on other things, like going back to school or helping my roommate with his goals.

To me, home means a place where you can truly relax. It's where you feel safe, where you're not worried about getting kicked out or having your things stolen. Home is a place where you can leave all your worries outside, and just relax and focus on you.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

This work is not just a concept - it's a collective responsibility.

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