

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECT

NEURO-INCLUSIVE HOUSING SOLUTIONS

INCLUSIVE HOUSING COALITION
INCREASING HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ADULTS WITH I/DD

AUTISM HOUSING NETWORK

Use QR Code For Video Explanation and Full Report

What This Is About



Many adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Colorado need a **safe, affordable place to live.**

We wanted to learn more about a type of housing called **intentional communities**.

An **intentional community** is a group of people who choose to live near each other because they **share interests** and want to **support one another.**

How We Learned

Many people with disabilities helped us in this research.

- We asked questions in surveys. Over **250 people** answered!
- We held **in-person meetings** in different towns
- **We visited** 3 intentional communities in Colorado
- We talked to people who build and manage this type of housing



What People Told Us They Want



Friends & Belonging – People want to live near friends, not be alone.

Help Nearby – People want staff or helpers close by if they need support.

Safety – People want to feel safe from strangers and danger, like fire or drugs.

Independence – People want to make their own choices and have freedom.

Understanding – People want neighbors who respect and understand their disability.

Fun & Activities – People want events, classes, and meals together.

Easy-to-Use Spaces – Homes and buildings built for comfort, safety, and accessibility needs.

Long-Term Stability – People want to stay in one place for a long time without moving.



Concerns Some People Have



Some people worry intentional communities with mostly people with disabilities might turn into institutions where:

- ✕ People lose choice and control
- ✕ People are separated from the rest of the community
- ✕ People are treated badly, like abuse or isolated

What Makes a Good Intentional Community?

People said good communities should:



- ✚ Have a **resident council** so people share ideas and make changes
- ✚ Be affordable, with **help to pay rent**
- ✚ Give people choices about housemates and the services they use
- ✚ Have fun and welcoming spaces to gather
- ✚ Keep people safe without taking away freedom
- ✚ Involve the larger neighborhood so people are connected to the wider community

Why This Matters

We think Colorado leaders should take action:



- ➡ Make sure people with disabilities have a voice in planning and designing housing
- ➡ Require visits to intentional communities to check they are not institutional
- ➡ Help housing builders make things more affordable for people with very little income
- ➡ Make sure Colorado is planning for the future

Thank You To Our Funder and Everyone Who Helped!

Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council

This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services as part of Grant No. 2401COSCDD totaling $1,178,610.00, 100% from federal funding.