



**Rutgers** Center for  
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# Fact Sheet

## Community Living Exchange

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## CMS Housing Workgroup Summary

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The Community Living Exchange at Rutgers/NASHP provides technical assistance to the Real Choice Systems Change grantees funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

We collaborate with multiple technical assistance partners, including ILRU, Muskie School of Public Service, National Disability Institute, Auerbach Consulting Inc., and many others around the nation.

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## **CMS Housing Workgroup**

Rutgers Center for State Health Policy  
NCB Development Corporation – National Disability Institute

Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services and the Community Living Exchange Collaborative at ILRU and Rutgers developed the CMS Housing Workgroup to provide an opportunity for grantees to network across state lines to discuss issues and challenges that affect the ability to provide safe, quality affordable, accessible, and integrated housing coordinated with community supports.

The CMS Housing Workgroup makes two subgroups available for grantees to participate. The subgroups meet monthly via teleconference and often host expert panelists on specific discussion topics. The overall objective of the subgroups is to:

1. Create a peer-to-peer network of stakeholders advancing housing choices that are affordable, accessible, and integrated;
2. Identify promising policy development and practices; create a new level of awareness and knowledge of multiple strategies to be designed and implemented at - local and state levels;
3. Expand relationships between housing and service agencies;
4. Sharing of resources among grantees interested in affordable/accessible/integrated housing coordinated with community supports; and
5. Identify funding for the expansion of affordable, accessible and integrated housing.

### **Essentials of Housing Subgroup**

*Description:* This group provides basic level discussion to assist grantees in addressing and formulating strategies for affordable, accessible and integrated housing within their state. The goal of the group is to increase the capacity of the grantees to cultivate relationships and strategies for affordable, accessible, and integrated housing development coordinated with services in their state. The group leader for this subgroup will be Jay Klein from ILRU/CHANCE.

This group discusses such topics including but not limited to the following:

- Identification of affordable/accessible/integrated housing stakeholders at the State and local levels
- How to be involved in local and state housing resource decision-making
- Discussion on what sources of financing exist for rental assistance, home modifications and home ownership
- How to build relationships with public housing agencies and other affordable housing developers and coordinate with services
- Discussion on home ownership finance options
- Discussion on universal design and visitability

For more information on how you can participate with the Essentials of Housing subgroup, contact Pamela Robertson at ILRU via email at [pamela.robertson@unh.edu](mailto:pamela.robertson@unh.edu)

### **Advanced Strategies Subgroup**

*Description:* This subgroup provides a more in-depth and advanced level of discussion for grantees who have built successful relationships and programs with the affordable housing development industry in their state. This group explores ways to overcome barriers and share promising practices from their state. Further, this group works together to explore ways to influence national policy. The group leader for this subgroup will be Michael Morris from National Disability Institute. This group is more technical in nature and will continue to explore specific strategy development on issues including but not limited to the following:

- Multi-level finance streams for affordable/accessible/integrated housing development (including bridge subsidies, Low Income Housing Tax Credit QAP, bond programs etc.)
- How to motivate affordable housing developers to create affordable/accessible and integrated housing within current and future projects
- How to build collaborative partnerships to integrate affordable/accessible housing with long term supports within the community
- How to create an effective affordable, accessible, and integrated housing registry.

For more information on the Advanced Strategies Subgroup or to sign up to participate in future discussions, please contact Candace Baldwin at NCB Development Corporation via email at [cbaldwin@ncbdc.org](mailto:cbaldwin@ncbdc.org)