



MIH Proposal to Achieve Accessible Housing for Marylanders with Disabilities

Shortly after Wes Moore was elected to become Maryland's 63rd Governor, **Maryland Inclusive Housing (MIH)** submitted a proposal to his transition committee, which outlines its organization's thoughts on working together with his administration to make housing more accessible and affordable for Marylanders with disabilities. The plan proposes to expand inclusive, affordable and accessible housing to people with disabilities. Although the focus of MIH's work is for people who receive Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)-funded services, this proposal and the work of MIH would support all people with disabilities as defined by the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD).

The Maryland Partnership for Affordable Housing (MPAH) is a partnership between the MDOD; the Maryland Department of Health (DOH), which includes both the DDA and Maryland Medicaid; and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). This new initiative will build on these structures and practices already in place, in which MDOD manages waiting lists and DHCD inspects units and makes payments and DOH provides funding and services.

Housing will be in new and redeveloped existing housing. This will be mostly done in multifamily housing units but could also include a mix of single-family housing.

Private housing developers would agree to set aside 5-15% of the units in a development for people who are eligible. At least a third of the units will be Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS)-compliant and at least another third would be wheelchair visitable. Housing developers and management companies would agree to partner with MIH in the development of amenities and special programs needed by people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (IDD), specifically inclusion. Assistive technology will also be built into these arrangements that would both support people to live more independently and reduce the need for paid staff. MIH would provide referrals for these housing arrangements. The units will be filled with people who have a housing voucher or DDA Housing Subsidy.

MIH would also provide on average a half-time employee, who would manage referrals, organize social inclusion activities and be a single point of contact for developers/property owners in the housing community. MIH would collaborate with service providers to ensure that people had services they needed to live successfully in these units.

A charitable foundation would be asked to fund some of the cost of making the housing arrangements affordable, the full cost of the MIH employees working in each development, as

well as the cost of technology building into the housing arrangements. MIH would need the assistance of Gov. Moore and his office to secure funding from this charitable foundation.

A committee of three people: one from MIH, one from MDOD and one from (DHCD) would select housing developers that would participate in these arrangements. This group would also screen locations and arrangements which would ideally be mixed use, mixed income and accessible to shopping, services, and public transportation. The goal will be to create eight of these arrangements serving and housing 160 people over the course of five years, with a target of having at least one arrangement on the Eastern Shore, in western Maryland and at least three arrangements in both southern and central Maryland.