



FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MARYLAND INCLUSIVE HOUSING

Everyone deserves
a place to call home



From Executive Director Tim Wiens



In 2022, Maryland Inclusive Housing has taken large steps forward in the transformation of residential services for Marylanders with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities (IDD) so they can have access to and afford to live in their own homes.

Three new full-time employees were hired toward the end of the fiscal year, doubling our staff. Our budget more than tripled from \$150,000 in FY21 to greater than \$450,000 in FY22.

FY22 was the third year of operations for our organization, which continued to grow its work in the following three areas:

1. Housing committees in Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Howard County were created and met bi-monthly. The committees have actively advocated for additional affordable and accessible housing in each of these jurisdictions. This has involved working with housing authorities, housing developers and county planning departments.
2. MIH has seen an enormous increase of sessions on its website since it was launched in July of 2021. In the first quarter of FY22, an average of 302 sessions per month were recorded. That number increased to 666 per month in the final quarter. That's a growth of 214%.
3. Housing Support Services (HSS) have been provided to 74 people in FY22. This was the first year for providing HSS and MIH began billing for these services via the DDA Medicaid Waiver. MIH has trained 49 people from 29 different agencies to provide Housing Support Services during this past year.

MIH contracted with the Center of Leadership and Innovation (CLI) to create a new year strategic plan for FY23 and 24. Please find a copy of this plan on our newly-redesigned website, www.mih-inc.org. While visiting our site, please consider joining our community by subscribing to our e-mail list. You will receive general and targeted information about the work of MIH as well as new affordable and accessible housing in the area that you live or work.

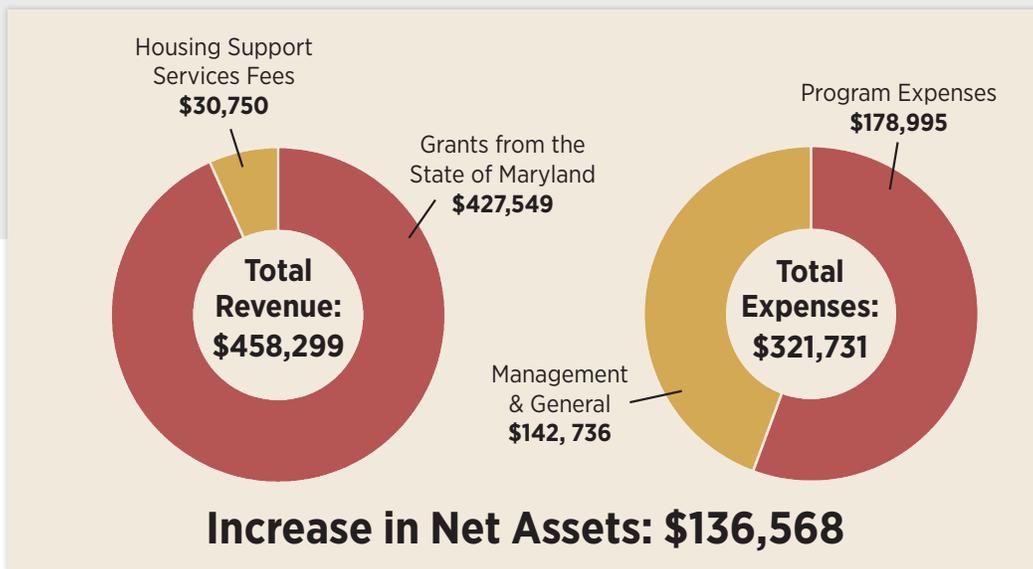
The impact that we are making on the lives of Marylanders with IDD and their families is tangible. We see it every day and it reminds us how important it is to continue our work in new and innovative ways. We look forward to you being with us as our organization grows even more during 2023.

Sincerely,

Tim Wiens
Executive Director

Financials

A complete copy of the FY22 MIH audited financial statements are available on the MIH website: www.mih-inc.org.



A Home for Liam



At 24 years old, Liam Aaron is thankful for many things in his life. He's thankful for the two jobs he works regularly and the joy and contributions he brings to both of them. He's thankful for his incredibly supportive family and his life coach Tom who helps guide him through life's challenges. As any twentysomething would be, he's of course thankful for his Xbox.

What he may be most thankful for these days is a place to call his own and independence that he and his family could only dream of for many years. Thanks to Maryland Inclusive Housing, Liam has that place and is on his way to seeing his dream of independence come true.

Liam was diagnosed with autism at 19 months and for most of his life he has struggled with limited verbal communication ability.

“The goal was always to help Liam reach the highest level of independence he can,” said his mother, Carole-Lena. “One day, he’ll be paying his own bills and doing his own things.”

Liam has excelled in the work world, holding down several jobs since he's become an adult. The logical next step for him and his family is finding a place to live independently.

Finding the right type of housing for Liam is not as simple as it is for those without autism. The Aaron family wanted to find a safe environment and a program in which Liam could thrive while adapting to his new independence. They found what they were looking for in the Integrated Living Opportunities (ILO) program which fosters social interaction and offers life coaching support for individuals with disabilities through community pods. Liam lives in a vibrant apartment building in the heart of Rockville Square which hosts five other ILO pod members.

In the spring of 2022, the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County told the family that Liam's name had come up to receive a voucher for housing, but the Aaron family encountered several roadblocks before securing the apartment.

Enter Maryland Inclusive Housing and community living coordinator Lauren Silverstone. At the suggestion of ILO, Carol-Lena reached out to Lauren to help navigate the voucher process. To help the Aaron family secure the apartment of their dreams for Liam, Lauren used her comprehensive understanding of the inclusive housing landscape in Montgomery County, and specifically Rockville, to help the family overcome conflicts that had prevented Liam from getting his apartment.

“I was upset, but Lauren was calm,” said Carole-Lena. “She knew what to do, was responsive and acted quickly. Had it not been for Lauren, we would not have been able to get this apartment.”

The Aaron family developed a plan to acclimate Liam to his new home which he moved into in November. He was able to pick out the colors of his furniture, the plates and all the furnishings so it would be just the way he liked it. He's spending more and more time in the apartment as he gets used to it.

Liam plays video games with Tom and loves to cook meals in the kitchen. He has also started a work-study program with Dawson's Market in Rockville where he is stocking shelves with food and drinks.

“Individuals and families often encounter barriers while navigating the complex bureaucracy of housing voucher procedures,” said Lauren. “MIH is pleased to assist individuals in untangling this web of regulations and help them obtain and maintain their chosen home.”

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Housing Support Services (HSS) support participants in navigating housing opportunities, addressing or overcoming barriers to housing, and securing and retaining their own home. They include:

- **Housing information and assistance** for individuals to obtain and retain independent housing.
- **Housing transition services** to assist with assessment of housing needs and development of an individualized housing support plan.
- **Housing tenancy sustaining services** to support the individual so that they can continue living in their rented, leased or owned home.

Regional Housing Committees

MIH is working with leaders in **Montgomery County (below left), Howard County and Baltimore City (below right)** and has established regional housing committees in these jurisdictions. These committees are composed of people with developmental disabilities, family members of people with developmental disabilities, local government officials and service providers. Committees function differently in each jurisdiction and set goals specific to the needs to their communities. Our organization is currently in the process of creating additional regional housing committees within the state.



Information Clearinghouse

MIH serves as an **all-in-one inclusive housing information clearinghouse** for the state of Maryland and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The clearinghouse benefits individuals with IDD, their families and support systems as well as Coordinators of Community Support (CCS) workers and service providers. The information will be housed on **MIH's website (mih-inc.org)**.

Inclusive Housing Advocacy

MIH advocates for additional affordable and accessible housing for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Our organization advocates for increased funding for affordable housing and educates elected officials about legislation and policies concerning individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Our Mission

To help people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) successfully access and maintain inclusive, affordable, and accessible housing of their choice by creating opportunities, identifying resources, connecting people and providing services.

