New York City
Housing Assistance Programs
for People with Disabilities

A guide to various housing programs available for people with disabilities

Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities
Department of Housing Preservation and Development
Disability-Specific Programs

Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT):
New York State Department of Health

Duration: Ongoing

Who:
People in need of supportive housing that provides substance abuse and mental health services.

What:
The MRT program offers eligible households a state-funded rental assistance subsidy to locate and maintain stable permanent housing. Households who are eligible typically receive Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, or disability benefits. Households are connected to the subsidy through supportive housing sponsors, health organizations and City shelters.

To learn more:
http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/affordable_housing_workgroup.htm
Nursing Home Transition & Diversion/ Medicaid Waiver Program (NHTD):
New York State Department of Health

Duration: Ongoing

Who:
People with physical disabilities who qualify for long-term medical care.

What:
Individuals with physical disabilities participating in the Medicaid Waiver Program and are receiving services such as home care are eligible to apply for a housing subsidy to assist with transitioning from a nursing home and into the community. People with physical disabilities who are not residing in nursing homes and qualify for long-term medical care may be eligible for the subsidy as well.

To learn more:
Individual Support and Services/Self Direction:
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Duration: Ongoing

Who:
People with developmental disabilities and their eligible families.

What:
OPWDD rent subsidies or Individual Support Services assist adults with developmental disabilities who wish to live independently by providing rental subsidies that allow them to select housing within the neighborhood of their choice. If the individuals do not live alone, the subsidy will cover their share of the rent.

To learn more:
http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_community_connections/housing_initiatives#main-content
HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA):
Human Resources Administration

Duration: Ongoing

Who:
Persons living with AIDS or clinical symptomatic HIV illness.

What:
Persons living with AIDS or clinical symptomatic HIV illness may receive essential benefits and social services through HASA, a program of the New York City Human Resources Administration. HASA offers a rent subsidy for clients in private market apartments. Eligible clients may only contribute thirty percent of their income towards rent. The remainder is paid by HASA.

To learn more:
http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/hiv-aids-services.page
Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE):
New York City Department of Finance

Duration: Ongoing

Who:
People with disabilities who live in rent-controlled, rent-stabilized, or Mitchell-Lama housing.

What:
DRIE is a program from the New York City Department of Finance that allows tenants with disabilities who live in rent-controlled, rent-stabilized or Mitchell-Lama apartments to freeze their rents. Tenants continue paying the same rent when there is an increase and landlords are compensated through tax abatements.

To learn more:
www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/tenants-drie.page
CITYFEPS Rent Supplement Program:
Human Resources Administration

Duration: Up to 5 years (must reapply every year)

Who:
Families (with children) in shelter or at risk of entering shelter.

What:
CITYFEPS, a program of the New York City Department of Homeless Services, is a housing supplement to help prevent evictions and provide rental support to families for up to five years. A household must be in housing court, be receiving public assistance, and have at least one child under the age of 18 to apply.

To learn more:
www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/permanency/cityfeps. page
Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS):
Human Resources Administration

Duration: Up to 5 years (must reapply every year)

Who:
Individuals and adult families receiving public assistance.

What:
SEPS, a program of the New York City Department of Homeless Services, is a subsidy that is meant to aid individuals and adult families who are in need of stable housing. It provides rent assistance for one year with the possibility of renewals. Individuals who have experienced domestic violence, have served in the military, have been evicted or are staying in a shelter, are welcome to apply. Applicants must receive public assistance to qualify.

To learn more:
www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/permanency/seps.page
Living in Communities (LINC): New York City Department of Homeless Services

Duration: Temporary

Who:
Individuals and families staying in shelters.

What:
The LINC Rental Assistance programs were created to help move families out of shelter and into stable housing. Funding is based on availability and may be time limited. Six types of LINC programs were created specific to a family’s income, employment status, household size and composition, whether they were identified to be part of a vulnerable population. Please refer to the NYC Department of Homeless Services website for more information.

To learn more:
http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/ permanency/linc-program.page
Affordable and Low-Income Housing Opportunities

Housing Connect Lotteries:
NYC Housing Preservation and Development

What:
The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and its partners use city subsidies and other financing tools to make new and renovated housing affordable to low, moderate and middle-income individuals and families. Five percent of units are set aside for income-eligible applicants with mobility disabilities, and two percent are set aside for people with vision and hearing disabilities. People can apply online through NYC Housing Connect.

To learn more:
http://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/renters/find-housing.page
New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA):

NYCHA provides public housing for low-income families. Due to high demand, there is a long waiting list. Priority is given to applicants staying in shelters.

To learn more: http://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/index.page
The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), in operation since 1972, works to ensure that New Yorkers with disabilities can lead happy, healthy and productive lives. The MOPD staff work hand-in-hand with other City offices and over 50 agencies to ensure that the voice of the disabled community is represented and that City programs and policies address the needs of people with disabilities. The Office provides information on accessible programs, accessible transportation, employment, health services, activities and other resources to the over 800,000 New Yorkers with disabilities and the millions of people with disabilities visiting New York City every year. The dedicated staff of MOPD works hard every day to make New York City the most accessible city in the world.