



Tackling the Housing Crisis for Ontarians with Developmental Disabilities



Ontarians living with developmental disabilities are experiencing a **housing crisis**.

The Ontario government has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage its substantial investment through the National Housing Strategy to resolve this crisis – **at no additional cost to Ontario taxpayers**.

We strongly recommend that the Ontario Government prioritize investment in housing for individuals with developmental disabilities by **earmarking 10% of the *National Housing Strategy* funding to this critical need, and requiring municipalities to commit accordingly.**



What are developmental disabilities?

- Development disabilities are characterized by **life-long** limitations in daily living and cognitive skills
 - *Ex. Down's Syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.*
- In addition to the support of parents, guardians and families, individuals living with developmental disabilities depend on **specialized supports and care** to help them participate in their communities and live fulfilling lives
- Individuals with developmental disabilities are at **greater risk** from a number of illnesses, including COVID-19, due to living in high risk settings and diminished community supports.



The Developmental Services Housing Sector



- Developmental services housing providers offer individuals living with developmental and intellectual disabilities:
 - Safe, affordable, **community-based** housing options
 - **Employment** supports
 - **Social inclusion** for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Together, Reena and Community Living Toronto collectively provide housing to over 1,000 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Across Ontario, OASIS member agencies provide housing support to thousands more.



Individuals Living with Developmental Disabilities Need Appropriate Housing



- The housing crisis for people living with developmental disabilities is at a tipping point.
- More and more are falling into crisis as aging parents are no longer able to care for them at home.
- Wait times for supportive housing are **10 times** longer for those with a developmental disability compared to those waiting for affordable housing.
- As a result, thousands of young people living with developmental disabilities are instead living in **long-term care or alternate level of care (ALC) beds in hospitals**, occupying expensive, inappropriate and badly needed bed spaces.



The Developmental Services Housing Gap in Ontario



Without affordable housing, people with developmental disabilities are forced to rely on **unsuitable** and **expensive** alternatives

**10x
longer**

Wait times for a person with a developmental disability are **10x longer** compared to the average person seeking affordable housing

6%

Between 2014 and 2016, **only 6%** of adults on the housing waitlist received housing support

**25 years
earlier,
4.5x higher**

Adults with developmental disabilities are admitted to LTC **25 years earlier**, at rates **4.5x higher** than average

18-30%

18-30% of chronic shelter users have a developmental disability



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The National Housing Strategy & Developmental Services Housing



- The National Housing Strategy is an historic, joint Federal-Provincial investment in affordable housing.
- Under the agreement reached between the Federal and Ontario governments in 2018, a total of \$4.2 billion will be invested in addressing Ontario's acute housing needs.
- This will occur over a 10-year period, in 3 separate phases with programs established by the Ontario government for each phase. Phase 1 is complete, with Phase 2 anticipated to launch in 2023.
- Developmental disabilities were identified as one of the 11 priority groups in the Canada-Ontario agreement.
- However, as local municipalities had the sole discretion to prioritize the use of the funding in Phase 1, very little investment was made in developmental services housing – as funding was used on other priorities.



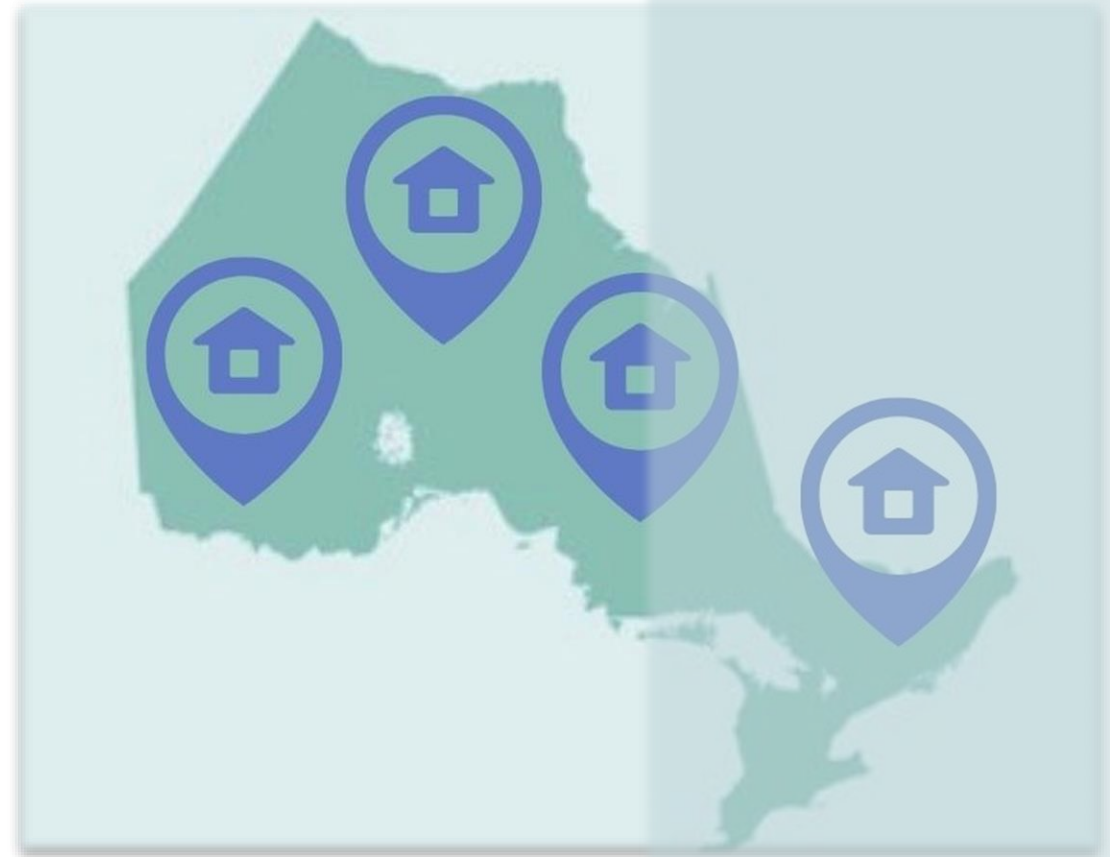
Tackling the Developmental Services Housing Crisis



Through the ***National Housing Strategy***, a \$4.2 billion investment **by Ontario** using **Federal government funding**, there is an immediate opportunity **ensure that individuals living with developmental disabilities have access to the critical supportive housing they and their families need.**

SOLUTION: We strongly recommend that the Ontario Government **Commit 10% of remaining funding of the Canada-Ontario National Housing Strategy** Bilateral Agreement for housing for individuals living with developmental disabilities and **requiring municipalities to commit accordingly.**

Securing this investment for the duration of the Canada-Ontario agreement would have **a significant impact** on the housing crisis for individuals living with developmental disabilities.



How this investment will support individuals with developmental disabilities

- Focusing 10% of this existing federal and provincial funding dollars will, at minimum:
 - ***Build 2,400 units of housing***
 - ***Maintain 12,691 existing units*** housing those in need
 - ***Repair 2,500*** (20%) of these existing units to a good state of repair
- Local municipalities and developmental services agencies can **work together** to determine how these funds are best used locally.



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ABOUT US:

OASIS:

- Founded in 1996, [OASIS](#) is a province wide organisation representing [200+ developmental services member agencies](#) across Ontario
- Supporting 65,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities
- Member agencies employ approximately 25,000 full and part-time staff
- Currently provide more than 85% of all developmental services in Ontario

Community Living Toronto :

- Source of support for people with an intellectual disability and their families since 1948.
- Offers a wide range of services including respite, person-directed planning, employment supports, supported living, and community-based activities.
- Supports over 4,000 individuals and their families in 80+ locations across Toronto.

Reena :

- Established in 1973 by a group of parents of children with developmental disabilities as an alternative to an institution.
- Reena today provides programs and supports to over 1,000 people in a variety of residential locations.

