



NDSC Position Statement on Housing and Community Living

The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) believes that individuals with Down syndrome, like all Americans, have a right to live in their own homes, in the community. Adults should control where and with whom they live, have the freedom to choose their daily routines and activities, and they should have opportunities to rent or buy their own homes. We are committed to advancing policies that:

- Empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families to make informed choices about where and with whom they live, and respect individuals' choices. "Informed choice" should include providing understandable information about the benefits of living in inclusive settings in the community, opportunities to meet people with disabilities who are living in their own homes, and other experiences in inclusive community settings;
- Safeguard the health and safety of individuals with Down syndrome wherever they live, while recognizing their right to take risks and exercise choice and control;
- Promote the full inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome in typical community settings and alongside peers both with and without disabilities;
- Increase access to, and coordination of, home and community-based support systems funded through Medicaid and other mechanisms;
- Expand affordable housing programs and reduce waiting lists;
- Minimize transportation barriers that restrict access to the broader community;
- Provide supports, education and training to improve the ability of individuals with Down syndrome to live as independently as possible;
- Protect individuals with Down syndrome from housing discrimination so they have opportunities comparable to those of people without disabilities to rent or buy their own homes; and
- Improve the coordination and implementation of the complex systems of supports and services for adults with Down syndrome and other disabilities.