



## Administration on Developmental Disabilities



# Housing

## FY 2008 Performance Highlights

While the classic symbol of the American Dream is to obtain a home of one's own, finding a home can be a significant challenge for individuals with disabilities. Safe, independent, and accessible housing provides individuals with freedom and self-sufficiency. Independent living opens doors and allows individuals to achieve independence and become part of a community; providing people with developmental disabilities living options other than in nursing homes and group settings. ADD encourages programs which give individuals with developmental disabilities community-based alternatives to institutional living. Grantee programs work to help people find accessible, affordable housing in their communities, thereby increasing their independence.

- In FY 2008, 34 UCEDDs enabled 17,616 people to participate in projects promoting equal access to community housing, including assistance related to renting, owning, or modifying an apartment or house.
- Twenty Councils made housing more accessible 1,640 people with developmental disabilities by participating in deinstitutionalization efforts and ensuring that those with independence can continue to maintain it.
- Due to the efforts of 45 P&As, 488 individuals were able to obtain or retain a residence and live where and with whom they chose.

In the District of Columbia, the Council has taken steps to inform and involve the community regarding accessible housing. Two community forums were held as part of the D.C. DDC Quality Assurance Advocacy initiative. Leadership representatives from the DC Housing Authority, DC Department of Housing & Community Development, DC Housing Finance Agency, University Legal Services, DC Office on Human Rights, Affordable Housing Alliance, and a private developer served as panelists and addressed over 124 individuals regarding the process for utilizing housing services and alternatives. Discussions focused on accessible and affordable housing and specific questions related to housing and how to make appointments for follow-up if necessary. As a result of these forums, one self advocate with developmental disabilities was able to get the "right" resources communicating to bring to fruition the installation of a much needed elevator in his home.