



MAKOM

Makom Statement on Housing Options

Makom supports and empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to achieve the quality of life to which they aspire. We envision a world where people with IDD share the same options and opportunities for a well-lived life as all other members of the community. Self-determination – the process by which a person controls their own life – is a core value and at the heart of all we do at Makom, and we work closely with the people we support, their families, and staff to explore various housing options and services and supports that honor our focus on self-determination while considering the realities of the changing housing landscape for people with IDD. We strive to ensure that people we support make informed decisions about how, where and with whom (if anyone) they live, and that they receive the resources and supports necessary to make their housing choices successful.

People we support, like everyone, do not have unlimited choices. And, like everyone, people with IDD face practical realities, like availability and affordability, that inform housing options available to everyone. While the wishes of people we support are always the driving factor in pursuing options, there are additional considerations that Makom takes into account:

- **Community:** Makom was founded on and continues to fully embrace community living over institutional living. People with IDD should never be placed in segregated settings or in environments that are separate and apart from communities in which they seek to live, work, pray and play. Instead, our experience over more than 40 years is that people with IDD seek to be part of and deeply enrich vibrant local communities.
- **Family:** Makom recognizes that family and friends are essential sources for trusted opinions and encouragement for people we support. When approaching important life decisions such as how a person with IDD seeks to live, Makom urges and, as necessary and appropriate, supports people to consult family members and friends for support and counsel. Further, Makom commits to collaborating with families when changes in housing are contemplated and keeping them apprised of their loved one's preferences, as appropriate.
- **Dignity of Risk:** Makom embraces the 'Dignity of Risk', the rights of people with IDD to take risks like anyone else and exercise their autonomy, choice and control. This is balanced with Makom's commitment to the health and safety of people we support as they choose how, where (including safety of the area) and with whom (if anyone) they live.

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- **Trends:** Makom embraces the wisdom and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision, and the Home and Community Based Services Settings Rule, among federal, state and local laws that impact our work, which set minimum standards for the support of people with IDD. People we support must have the choice of where and with whom to live, privacy within their homes, access to flexible supports and services where and when they choose, choices of what they do for fun and in relationships, freedom to come/go as they please, and housing that reflects their preferences and style.

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