We asked participants in our national housing decision-making study why people moved and how they found information. The study included 726 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and family members. Here’s what we found!

COMMON REASONS PEOPLE WITH I/DD MOVED

• People needed more support
• Family members were having difficulty providing enough support
• People wanted more independence
• There were emergencies or health and safety concerns
• People were planning ahead for when parents or family members are no longer around

HOW PEOPLE FOUND INFORMATION ABOUT HOUSING OPTIONS

People worked hard to learn about different housing options in their communities, but it was hard to find good information. They had to go to several different places to find information. The information people did find was often very confusing.

Here are ways people found information:

• Researching online
• Asking people they knew, like other parents or family members
• Talking with case managers
• Using social media (like Facebook)
• Contacting state developmental disabilities departments, housing services, social services, or Centers for Independent Living
• Going to disability fairs and conferences

WHAT’S THE TAKEAWAY?

There should be an easier way for people to find information about housing options for people with I/DD. This may be one large website or something similar. This website should describe different housing options, how to pay for homes, and the rights people have when deciding on and living in a home. Then, people with I/DD and their families can make informed choices about where people with I/DD live!

This information is from There’s No Place Like Home: A National Study of How People with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families Choose Where to Live. The technical report can be accessed at: futureplanning.thearc.org/housing/.