**There’s No Place Like Home: Dream Homes**

We asked participants in our national housing decision-making study about where they wanted to live in the future—what their dream home would be. The study included 726 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and family members. Here’s what we found!

# **WHAT ARE PEOPLE’S DREAM HOMES?**

* The most popular dream homes of both people with I/DD and family members were own home or apartment, supervised group home or apartment, and home of a family member.

**DREAM HOMES BY PARTICIPANT GROUP**

A screenshot of a video game

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* However, people with I/DD wanted to live in their own homes (79%) much more than family members (48%).
* Family members were much more likely to want their loved one with I/DD to live in group homes, institutions, and planned communities or campuses where only people with I/DD live (35%).   
  In contrast, only 8% of people with I/DD expressed preference for the same types of housing arrangements.
* These differences are important because we also found that family members most often made the decision about where a person with I/DD would live.

# **WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT IN THEIR DREAM HOMES?**

* A safe place to live
* Affordable and accessible homes
* Easy access to the community, including transportation
* Meaningful things to do during the day
* Person-centered choices about where they live, who they live with, and what they do each day
* Opportunities to make friends and romantic partners
* Good support staff who stick around
* Opportunities to learn new skills and grow independence
* Being close to family members
* The ability to have pets
* Basic amenities such as laundry
* Good relationships with roommates
* House rules that don’t limit what people can and can’t do in their own homes

Family members tended to focus on a dream home being a safe place. People with I/DD tended to focus more on having opportunities and activities, independence, and more control over their home and what they do each day—though they noted that safety was important.

# **KEY TAKEAWAY**

We need to make it possible for more people with I/DD to live as independently as possible by making settings accessible and affordable. As we plan for future homes, we must listen to the voices and wishes of people with I/DD about what they want in a home. We must balance the need for independence, respect, and choice with a need for safety in a home.