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## **Governor's Council on Disability Housing Position Paper**

Because the Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) believes that housing is a fundamental human right, it is the position of the Governor's Council on Disability to promote housing opportunities based on inclusion, community partnerships, Universal Design (UD), and resident choice. GCD further believes that enhanced coordination, promotion, and collaboration of housing design and development in Missouri will reduce costs to the State and local communities while improving independence, household stability, health as well as positive educational and employment outcomes for Missourians.

### **1. Choice**

- a. Ensure that agencies that work with individuals with disabilities are aware of the various housing options, rental assistance programs, utility assistance programs, and support agencies that are available to support successful housing outcomes. Knowledge is power.
- b. Educate real estate agents and property managers so that they are aware of the UD dwellings within MLS listings

### **2. Public Policy**

- a. Work with partners and legislators to encourage more effective regulations (e.g. in new construction with MHDC) for existing homes/ home modifications. Codify laws to mandate codification of UD in city housing charters, counties etc.
- b. Promote Fair Housing Mandates. Provide Technical Assistance if necessary
- c. Promote a statewide building code.
- d. Ensure that Missourians who utilize housing are aware of policies that protect their housing civil rights, including enforcement mechanisms through the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Department of Justice and Housing and Urban Development.

### **3. Partnerships**

- a. Develop strong partnerships with and among Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation/ builders/ Centers for Independent Living/ Statewide Independent Living Council/ State Government/ Money Follows the Person Program/ others
- b. Connecting Providers with Builders

*Keeping the Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act  
Affiliated with the Office of Disability Employment Policy*

- c. Work with community leaders to advocate against the NIMBY (Not in My Backyard)
  - d. Develop partnerships with real estate companies, home owners associations, and regional, local, statewide real estate associations.
4. Healthy housing options
- a. Housing should never be located near toxic waste sites in order to protect indoor air quality and environmental concerns.
  - b. Information should readily be made available regarding environmental issues to community partners, renters, and home owners.
  - c. Public Housing should as fragrance free as possible.
- **Recommendation:**
    - Work with housing experts in Missouri and nationally to compile “best practices” from other states and locales for implementation here. Convene a state-wide housing consortium of housing experts to come up with solutions to break down service and funding “silos.”

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