

This list of housing resources was initially compiled for A New Chapter – a peer led group for parents/caregivers interested in preparing for the future of their youth/adult with a lifelong disability. This group represents a diverse range of ages and exceptionalities. We share this information to assist families and self-advocates in their housing journeys.

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) – Funded Housing Services:

For clients eligible for DSO, the following MCCSS-funded options are available, described under Housing Supports here: [Funded services | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#). Some local providers are listed below, all accessed through the DSO registry (DSO phone number is 1-888-941-1121):

- **Group Homes / Group Living**
 - Sunbeam Community, Parents for Community Living, KW Habilitation, Community Living Cambridge, Elmira District Community Living, Christian Horizons, and Aldaview Services
- **Supported Independent Living aka S.I.L.**
 - KW Habilitation, Extend-A-Family, Elmira District Community Living, Aldaview Services, Christian Horizons
- **Home Sharing / Family Home / Associate Home / Lifeshare**
 - Extend-A-Family, Community Living Cambridge, Christian Horizons

There are also some additional options provided locally, with funded placements accessed through DSO:

- **Intentional Communities**
 - KWHab's 108 Sydney Street – combines KWHab clients receiving supports, and non-clients from the community – vacancies filled using Region affordable housing criterion
 - Elmira Developmental Support Corporation – Snow Goose and Field of Dreams - intentional communities with good neighbours built in to create community and provide some supports organically in exchange for affordable rent etc; some residents have SIL supports provided by Elmira District Community Living, but housing applications are directly to Elmira Developmental Support Corporation (EDSC), not through DSO; EDSC website coming; Field of Dreams: [Microsoft Word - Draft 3 - Good Neighbours Report w Appendix - Jan 22.docx \(communitylivingontario.ca\)](#) ; eligibility criteria: persons with a developmental disability and eligible for ODSP; typically that means eligible for DSO
 - PCL / Menno Homes / St. Paul's – [New Housing Project - MennoHomes](#) - ten PCL clients & program space, and a diverse set of tenants chosen using the Region of Waterloo's Community Housing guidelines, and some congregational space, to create community
 - KWHab – emod tiny home installed behind group home to share supports / community
- **Independent Living Trial for Assessing Needs and Skills**
 - Elmira District Community Living – Trying It On for Size
 - Community Living Cambridge – Stepping Out program

- **Specialized Accommodations / Supports**

- KWHab's – Complex Care Initiative – specialized accommodations intended to support individuals with extremely challenging behaviours that have exceeded the capacity of their caregivers
- Sunbeam – Medically Fragile / Technologically Dependent - five of their group homes support clients in this group (four include some licenced children's beds)
- Sunbeam – one specialized behaviour group home for adults
- EDCL's Assisted Living Centre – seniors, complex care, or palliative care
- EDCL's Reid Woods – individuals with greater care and medical needs

Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) – additional housing resources:

- **DSO Housing Navigator** – to help families with individualized housing plans or creative housing solutions, either instead of funded housing services, or while waiting for them
 - **Amber Armstrong** – a.armstrong@sunbeamcommunity.ca
- **DSO Housing Toolkit** – an extensive list of resources, organized into the six steps to creating a housing plan: [Welcome to the DSO Housing Toolkit | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#)
- **DSO workshops** – for example Technology for Independence

Note that the demand for DSO-eligible (MCCSS-funded) housing / housing supports is much greater than the supply funded by the ministry, therefore, families may like to explore other housing options while waiting for MCCSS-funded housing through the DSO. Also, you must be “ready, willing, and able” to move forward with housing when it becomes available, in order to be placed on the DSO housing registry. So for example you can't register at age 18, if you're planning to live with your parents until age 30. You can choose to register for MCCSS housing anywhere in Ontario, regardless of where you live, when you're ready. The ADSS and SIS assessments help determine what type and level of residential supports would be appropriate to successfully meet your housing needs.

Housing Supports not funded by DSO (supports on a fee-for-service basis)

- **Supported Independent Living (S.I.L.)** – While their services are mostly funded through MCCSS and accessed through the DSO, Extend-A-Family is open to exploring other potential scenarios on a fee-for-service basis for those who don't qualify through DSO, but could benefit from services and have other means to cover the costs; they do already provide some services through the LHIN and some families use Passport for fee-for-service supports
- **Independent Living Trial** for Skill Building / Needs Assessment – Community Living Cambridge's Stepping Out program is an option
- **In-home service providers**, often used for seniors, can also fill this gap, for example Right At Home, or Community Support Connections [Home - Community Support Connections](#)
- free **DSO housing toolkit** can be used by anybody, and has a lot of helpful information even for families who don't qualify for DSO: [Welcome to the DSO Housing Toolkit | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#)

- **Adults In Motion (AIM)** – * future * planning to get into residential supports – respite, supported independent living, trial/assessment apartment, and various models of residential homes including possibly a staffing-your-home model – contact them to share your needs
- **Lutherwood – Housing Resource Centre** – [Housing \(lutherwood.ca\)](http://Housing.lutherwood.ca) assists with housing searches and options, navigating/accessing regional housing services including affordable housing and supportive housing, rent bank, acuity assessments for PATHs list – housing support workers provide support for housing specifically; accessible to anyone in the community (individuals and families); also finds tenants for landlords who offer to connect
- **Lutherwood – Safe Haven Life Launch** – for 16-17 year old clients - light-touch supports to increase skills and help establish successful housing so they can manage independently as adults

Other Specialized Housing Services / Supports

- Thresholds Homes and Supports – Mental Health
 - [Housing Support Services | Thresholds Homes and Supports \(thresholdssupports.ca\)](http://HousingSupportServices|ThresholdsHomesandSupports(thresholdssupports.ca))
 - Includes group homes, subsidized apartments, crisis respite, and supports in own home
 - Access via Adult Intensive Services through Here 24/7
- Traverse Independence – [Home - Traverse Independence](http://Home-TraversalIndependence) -Acquired Brain Injury, Physical Disabilities
 - Services funded by Ministry of Health for ABI include Transitional Home, ABI Group Home, and ABI Outreach Support towards/for independent living, ongoing if needed
 - ABI Transitional Home and ABI Outreach Support also available privately-funded
 - Physical Disabilities – [Supportive Housing - Traverse Independence](http://SupportiveHousing-TraversalIndependence) ; two supportive housing locations in Kitchener; apply through the LHIN; pay own rent and living expenses; able to direct own care; can apply for rent-geared-to-income through Kitchener Housing (for Union Lane) or through Region of Waterloo (for Strasburg Rd)
- Independent Living Centre – [ILC Waterloo Region \(ilcwr.org\)](http://ILCWaterlooRegion(ilcwr.org)) – physical disabilities
 - attendant services for people with physical disabilities who can direct their own care, in their own home wherever they live <https://www.ilcwr.org/attendant-services>
 - Assisted Living services with 24/7 on site in these communities:
 - Waterloo - Shamrock Co-op [Assisted Living at Shamrock Housing Cooperative \(caredove.com\)](http://AssistedLivingatShamrockHousingCooperative(caredove.com))
 - Cambridge – Kiwanis Village [Assisted Living at Kiwanis Village \(caredove.com\)](http://AssistedLivingatKiwanisVillage(caredove.com))
 - Kitchener - [Assisted Living at Mooregate Crescent Apartments \(caredove.com\)](http://AssistedLivingatMooregateCrescentApartments(caredove.com))
- Sunbeam Lodge – [Home - Sunbeam Lodge](http://Home-SunbeamLodge) – a private service provider for medically fragile individuals, from infancy into adulthood – can be referred by an agency like FACS or DSO to set up agreement using MCCSS funding; families can also apply directly if they have insurance / means to fund the care on a fee-for-service basis; focus is on complex medical needs (not behaviour concerns, since residents are fragile); includes a classroom and an adult day program

Resources for Creative Options

- **H.A.N.D. – Housing Alternatives New Directions** – connect to this closed group on facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/HAND4housing/ - say you're from WRFN to have your request approved; co-ordinator for H.A.N.D. is Amber Armstrong (this is separate from her role as DSO Housing Navigator); email althousing.ac@gmail.com
- **Bridges to Belonging** – Be At Home Creative Housing – [Be at Home Creative Housing - Bridges To Belonging Waterloo Region](#) - a resource for people wanting to transition from living with their family or current residential arrangement to a home of their own with greater independence in their community.
- **DSO Housing Toolkit** – [Welcome to the DSO Housing Toolkit | DSO \(dsontario.ca\)](#) worth mentioning again – can be used by anyone - many great resources grouped into the six steps:
 - Exploring and understanding your housing needs and wants, and creating your housing plan
 - Reviewing housing options and locations
 - Financing the plan
 - Managing housing supports
 - Building a plan that will support change
 - Learning from others
- **My Housing And Support Plan** [My-housing-plan.pdf \(dsontario.ca\)](#) (Toolkit can help with this)
- **ConnectABILITY.ca** – [Connected Families | ConnectABILITY](#) for resources/networking/want ads
- **P4P – Partners for Planning** – [Partners for Planning \(planningnetwork.ca\)](#) – many workshops and resources for a good life, including housing, and suggestions like this list of funding options:
 - **Ontario Renovation Grant List:** A comprehensive list of government grants, energy rebates & tax credits for Ontario homeowners.
 - [Ontario Renovates Program: Ultimate Guide for Ontario Homeowners 2021 - Show Me the Green](#)
 - [Funding for Home Repairs - Region of Waterloo](#)
 - **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB):** The COHB is a new funding program which provides a portable housing benefit to assist with rental costs – portable because it's tied to your household unit, not to your address. [Partners for Planning - Canada Ontario Housing Benefit \(planningnetwork.ca\)](#)
 - **Secondary Suites Program:** The Secondary Suites Program provides funding of up to \$30,000 per unit for the creation of a secondary or garden suite which is an effective means to increase the supply of affordable housing. [Funding for Secondary \(In-Law\) Suites - Region of Waterloo](#)
 - **The Ontario Home and Vehicle Modification Program:** This program administered by the Ontario March of Dimes provides funding to eligible applicants to help offset the

costs of home modifications. [MODC's Home & Vehicle Modification® Program | March of Dimes Canada](#)

- **Developmental Services Housing Task Force**
 - P4P Digital Guide – 18 innovative housing solutions [Partners for Planning - Housing Task Force Booklet \(planningnetwork.ca\)](#)
 - Housing Task Force Final Report [Partners for Planning - FINAL REPORT – Project Outcomes – Supporting Resources \(planningnetwork.ca\)](#)
- **RDSP Homeownership Plan** – * proposed * [The RDSP Homeownership Plan - RDSP](#)
- **Family-Managed Home Care** - [Getting Care Family Managed Home Care \(healthcareathome.ca\)](#) administered by LHIN, funded by Ministry of Health

Local Government Housing Information

- City of Kitchener's Affordable Housing Strategy: [Housing For All - Kitchener Housing Strategy](#)
- Region of Waterloo's Affordable Housing Renter's Kit: [The Renter's Toolkit - Region of Waterloo](#)
- Region of Waterloo oversees over 5600 units: [Find Affordable Housing - Region of Waterloo](#)
- Region of Waterloo Guide to Applying for Community Housing: [Applying for Rent-geared-to-income, wheelchair accessible and special needs housing in the Region of Waterloo](#)
- Region of Waterloo 2020-2040 [Waterloo-Region-Housing-Master-Plan.pdf \(regionofwaterloo.ca\)](#)
- City of Kitchener's Tiny Homes Bylaw: [Backyard homes and duplexes - City of Kitchener](#) ; [Kitchener council approves 'tiny home' zoning bylaw amendment - Kitchener News \(kitchenertoday.com\)](#)

What's Happening on the housing scene in Waterloo Region

- **Menno Homes**
 - [MennoHomes - Creating affordable housing in Waterloo Region since 2001](#)
 - their project with Parents for Community Living and St. Paul's Lutheran Church: [Why Affordable Housing? - MennoHomes](#)
- **Leadership Waterloo Region** – three years of core program focused on housing, in partnership with Wellbeing Waterloo Region and The Waterloo Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience (WISIR) at UW; here are the Affordable Housing Lab results from the 2019-2020 class: [Class of 2020 Affordable Housing Lab Results | Leadership Waterloo Region](#) ; more details here: [2020 AH Lab Final Report Design FINAL 10-07-2020 copy \(leadershipwaterlooregion.org\)](#) - some interesting projects and ideas, including a housing asset map; the current class has continued the focus on affordable housing, with the 21 core participants focussing on different aspects



- **Kitchener-Waterloo Community Foundation** – KWCF connects people, organizations, and companies, to funders and donors, for the betterment of life in Waterloo Region, including housing projects: [Converting a community church into affordable housing – Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation \(kwcf.ca\)](#). Since the pandemic they have hosted Do More Good Dialogues [Do More Good Dialogues – Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation \(kwcf.ca\)](#) – four of the nine dialogues held in the last year have been related to affordable housing.
- **Waterloo Region Yes In My Back Yard** [Waterloo Region Yes in My Backyard \(wryimby.com\)](#) – grassroots group advocating for more accessible and affordable housing in Waterloo Region
- **To Thrive Together** [To Thrive Together | A Sustainable Living Community](#) – sustainable accessible intentional multigenerational community, located in Bloomingdale; compact homes with loft that converts to caregiver suite
- **National Housing Strategy Solutions Lab** – three local projects receiving \$479,350
 - **House of Friendship** – Beyond Shelter: A Relationship-Based Approach to Emergency Housing and Health Care [www.sheltercare.ca](#) (bring health care and housing supports together to help people transition out of homelessness)
 - **Region of Waterloo** – Accessing Affordable Home Ownership Opportunities for Community Housing Tenants (supporting current tenants into home ownership to free up spots for others on the waitlist) [www.engagewr.ca/housing-solutions-lab](#)
 - **Union Sustainable Development Co-operative** – co-op affordable housing model with local community members as investors to acquire properties [www.unionsd.coop](#)
- **KW Habilitation – partnership with Women’s Crisis Services** – providing supportive housing for some KW Hab clients, with affordable housing for Women’s Crisis Services clients, with the opportunity to train as direct support workers and possible future employment
- **KWHabilitation – New Affordable Housing Project**
 - Location to be revealed; 4 storeys with structured parking
 - 18-unit, 16,000 square foot modular design building
 - visitABLE, accessible and barrier-free units, 1&2 bedroom
 - aiming to meet 5% above energy efficiency standards, and Net Zero ready
- **Region of Waterloo**
 - YW K-W - \$650,383 grant for 41-unit development
 - OneROOF - \$713,835 grant for 45-unit development

- Accepting proposals to generate affordable housing and repair existing units
- A total of \$5,665,653 is available for the project proposals, with \$2,665,653 being provided through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the other \$3,000,000 available through regional funding
- **Affordable Housing Incentives for Developers**
 - City of Kitchener’s Affordable Housing Incentives: [Affordable housing incentives - City of Kitchener](#)
 - Region of Waterloo’s Affordable Housing Incentives: [Incentives to Create Affordable Housing - Region of Waterloo](#)

Initiatives focused more on homelessness – prevention, supportive housing, and recovering from homelessness:

- SHOW – Supportive Housing of Waterloo [Home - Supportive Housing of Waterloo \(showaterloo.org\)](#)
– arose from Out Of The Cold pgm; accessed through Lutherwood PATHS2Home (PATHS list)
- SHOW – Affordable Housing for Seniors [SHOW The Way Home - Supportive Housing of Waterloo \(showaterloo.org\)](#)
- HHUG – Homelessness & Housing Umbrella Group [Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group \(HHUG\) | Lutherwood](#)
- Indwell at St Mark’s (King St beside Grand River Hospital [New to Waterloo Region: Indwell moves into Kitchener | Indwell](#) ; [St. Mark's Lutheran Church | Indwell](#))
- Indwell at St. Peter’s (Queen St) [Affordable housing project coming to Queen Street North | TheRecord.com](#)

Acknowledgements

With thanks for your contributions to:

- Waterloo Region Family Network’s A New Chapter planning group
- Waterloo Region Family Network’s partner agencies
- Partners for Planning (P4P)
- Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)
- Other Region of Waterloo community partners
- K C Professional Solutions

Please contact info@wrfn.info with any suggestions, corrections or omissions.