



# NEURO-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CHECKLIST

Being a neuro-inclusive community means that your residents with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (I/DD) are considered in community planning and development

## PEOPLE WITH I/DD ARE DIVERSE IN THEIR PASSIONS, SKILL SETS AND ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:



**ALYESHA** is a 3rd grader with Down Syndrome who loves painting and making people smile. She can become overwhelmed in certain places due to overstimulation of sights and sounds, so her family stays home a lot.



**THOMAS** is a young adult on the autism spectrum who is passionate about permaculture. He has only found part-time work at a grocery store and is afraid he will be homeless when his parents pass away.



**REBECCA** is a retired librarian with cerebral palsy who loves live music. Without access to transportation and on a fixed income, she is experiencing extreme social isolation that is now impacting her health.



Most people with I/DD live with parents, **BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY NO LONGER CAN PROVIDE A HOME & CARE?**



People with I/DD can live in a home they own or rent and get the services they need.



**WITHOUT ACCESS TO HOUSING**, they experience homelessness OR are displaced from their community into the "next empty bed" which may be many miles from their local community. Both traumatic responses to a lack of housing.

# STRATEGIES TO ENSURE PEOPLE WITH I/DD & NEURODIVERSE FAMILIES CAN ACCESS HOUSING & COMMUNITY

**UNDERSCORE** in your Comprehensive Plan that future community development should incorporate both physical and cognitive accessibility features



**PRIORITIZE** people with I/DD in local affordable housing initiatives



**ALLOW** families of dependant adults to add accessory dwelling units as a use by right to their property



**OFFER** tax exemption or reduction for homes occupied by adults with I/DD.



**ENCOURAGE** sensory-friendly times and/or spaces for retail stores, public events, fairs and festivals



**CONFIRM** your first responders have had sensitivity training related to responding to those with neurodiversities



**ASK** the Chamber of Commerce to educate business owners of the tax incentive of hiring people with disabilities and working with vocational rehabilitation



**ENSURE** outreach to neurodiverse community members for public input periods or to participate in working groups related to community development.

