

What is the Role of a Housing Navigator? - YouTube

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What is the role of a housing navigator? Hello everyone, I am Marietta Austin, a certified housing navigator and authorized support broker. In this video I will provide an overview of the role of a housing navigator. Housing navigation is a focused, outcome oriented and time limited service that helps people with IDD who need or want to move to community based housing to obtain and maintain stable, long term housing of their choice. What does housing navigation mean in practice? The Housing Navigator works in partnership with the person, their family, friends and the professionals who support them. In other words, their team.

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The team should include at least the person's family members, their care manager, their self direction broker, a representative from the fiscal intermediary, the representative payee, and a benefit advisor. The team aims to create a person centered housing plan that focuses on the person's strength, skills, goals and needs. The process of being truly person centered takes time. The team will sometimes meet as a group, sometimes separately, perhaps one-on-one with the person to create a deep understanding of who they are and what they want to achieve. This takes time. It isn't just a one hour meeting in an agency office, it's time spent informally with the person. And yes, it can take a while, but all the preparation pays off. The more prepared the plan, the longer it will last. The results will be better when the person is informed about their choices and available resources.

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Who does what, who is on the team, the Circle of Support, and who will be responsible for what needs to be worked on? It is best to name who will take an active role with the action plan. The Housing Navigator will give direction on these roles and recommend how to divide up tasks. Ultimately, Circle members, paid and unpaid, must decide how to be included in the person's vision for support, and the Housing Navigator helps with these discussions. Paying for it. The Housing Navigator will lead the development of an individualized housing budget. This includes understanding and using public benefits to make sure you receive all available benefits while protecting earnings and savings.

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Examples of future benefits include a housing subsidy transition, subsidies to help pay for furniture and appliances, or additional community habilitation time. When you are living more independently, you may need to talk to a benefits advisor and seek financial consulting if necessary. If the person is working or looking for employment, this may impact benefits. View our resource page on Financial assistance that describes all these benefits and spend some time with a benefit advisor who knows the OPWDD system to help you understand your resources. Support. Once everyone on the team understands the task and goals, then they can move on to create the plan. The next step is to understand the level of support the

person needs. The Housing Navigator can help lead these discussions to explore the types and levels of support.

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Some examples include paid support through community habilitation, a living caregiver, a paid neighbor, or some form of shared living. The Housing Navigator helps the team to explore other questions like will the person need to live with other people to share the cost of rent and support and is there a role for technology to provide support in place of paid staff. Where as you can see, we have a lot of preparation work before even thinking about where the home will be. A Housing Navigator understands that preparation must come first to create a sustainable housing. The Housing Navigator can help the person and their team explore housing options. This includes thinking about where the person wants to live and in what kind of home. Maybe this is an apartment, their own single home, or a house with other people. If you are looking for affordable housing, what type of housing would you like to apply for and do you qualify?

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Other considerations may include a security deposit, renter's insurance, a broker's fee, and any health and safety concerns. The Housing Navigator can help coordinate housing applications and connect with Realtors. Transition. Moving into a home means a lot of things must happen on time. Utilities must be paid, turned on and the home must be ready for a move in. The team should know who will be there to pack and unpack, coordinate with the movers, set up appliances, assemble furniture and so on. All support services and anyone will help The person to live independently must be ready to start on the first day. The skills and experience of the Housing navigator will make a difference to coordinate all the moving pieces, especially those that are time sensitive.

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Sustainability Housing Sustainability Plan A transition to ongoing service providers. The team needs to know how the person will maintain sustainable housing. The sustainable plan includes any services that the person may need with other service providers and backup plans. If a staff person is unable to work one day, the team should plan for potential problems like a broken appliance or conflict with the landlord. The housing navigator supports the team to look at these questions of sustainability before the person moves to ensure the plan can be successful. Crisis resolution Housing crisis resolution.

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If there is a crisis, housing navigators can assist the person to maintain their housing situation or identify an immediate and safe housing alternative within their own network of family, friends, and circle of support. The Housing Navigator focuses on resolving the crisis through conversation with the team and service providers. Conclusion This was a brief overview of the role of a Housing Navigator. A focused, outcome oriented, time limited service that helps people with IDD who need or want to move to community based housing to obtain and maintain stable long term

housing of their choice. This takes time, so start as early as possible. Next steps. Please visit the New York Housing Resource Center at nyhrc.org to find more information on this topic.

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There you can search our catalog of free housing related resources and download the Housing Resource Guide, which is a thorough review of housing related topics for people with IDD. If you would like to stay connected, please sign up for the Housing Connect, our electronic newsletter. We wish you the best on your housing journey.

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