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**To:** Comments <[Comments@floridahousing.org](mailto:Comments@floridahousing.org)>

**Subject:** comments for strategic plan

While Florida has addressed and provided funding for housing options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in recent years the need for additional affordable accessible housing continues to grow. Florida now provides services to approximately 34,500 individuals with IDD through the Medicaid Waiver program with an additional 21,000 on a waiting list. Florida ranks first in the country for family caregivers over the age of 60 now caring for their children at home. The majority of individuals with IDD rely on Supplemental Social Security (SSI) or SSA benefits as their only source of income, which does not provide for the most basic rent and living expenses. 60% of market rental rates in Florida typically exceed the maximum SSI benefit which does not allow most individuals to reside in tax credit affordable living communities.

Individuals with IDD have a wide range of abilities and challenges. Developing new affordable housing models (demonstration projects) to address the needs of this population with more significant challenges is needed.

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