

Monthly tips and resources for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.

Finding the Perfect Fit: Accessible Housing (Part 1)

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Thinking about where you'll live after high school is exciting! Understanding your ideal lifestyle, needs, and goals is the first step in finding the perfect place to call home. In this issue of What's Next?, you'll find a list of questions designed to help determine your ideal housing situation. Take a few minutes to complete this exercise and share your answers with family and trusted adults. With their support, you can create a plan and make your goals a reality.

Determine your ideal housing situation

- Where do I want to live, and how do I want to live?
 - These are important questions and may be hard to answer. Break them down and picture yourself with neighbors living the “city life.” Picture yourself with fewer neighbors and a yard. Which picture brings a smile to your face and makes you happy?
- Do I want to live close to my friends or family? If so, how close?
- Do I need to live close to work, college, a grocery store, and shopping centers?
 - Transportation options in the area may affect your decisions. Review [October's issue of What's Next?](#), to learn more about transportation options.
- Do I have or want a pet?
 - Ask landlords how much they charge for a pet deposit and if this would be a monthly fee. Don't forget to budget for your pet's food, treats, litter, vet bills, and other things!
- Do I want to live alone or with a roommate?
- What kind of roommate do I want?
 - Do I want to live with someone who is my same gender or does that matter?
 - Do I want my roommate to be close to my age?
 - Do I want a roommate who's active in hobbies, sports, or the community, or do I want to live with someone who likes to stay close to home?
 - Do I want an organized home, or am I ok with some messiness?
 - If I have or want a pet, is that ok with my roommate?
 - Do I want a roommate that has supports and services like me?
- What kinds of supports and services do I need?
 - Do I need help to shop, bank, cook, or clean?
 - Do I need help with my medical appointments or to take medicine?

- There are also support services, like [PPL First](#) and [SafeInHome](#), that check on you through an iPad, mobile phone, or watch. There are many ways they can help, like reminders to take your medicine, turn off your stove, or lock your doors.
- Do I need help with my personal care, like bathing, grooming, or using the restroom?
 - Learn more about independent living through the following resources. Review links to [Adria's Notebook](#), [inclusive options for housing](#), and [supported living](#).
- Do I or my future roommate need an [accessible home](#)?
 - If you or your roommate have a physical disability and need to use a wheelchair, walker, or cane, ensure that your home is accessible both inside and out. The [Indiana INDATA program](#) can help you get a ramp, communication and hearing devices, and other items.
- When I turn 18, will I be my own guardian?
 - In the past, people only had two choices. You could be your own guardian at age 18 or have a parent or trusted adult become your guardian. Now, there are more choices! Check out these [supported decision-making](#) choices to learn what's right for you.

Making these decisions takes planning, and it's never too early to get started! Don't forget to visit your local [Independent Living Center](#). They can help you understand choices for this next step. If you are treated unfairly by a landlord, the [Indiana Fair Housing Center](#) can help you.

Ready for Part 2? Next month's issue of What's Next?, will explore effective budgeting strategies and financial planning for affordable housing and basic needs.

What's Next? is a project of the Center on Community Living and Careers.

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