CCD 2023 Housing Task Force Annual Report Form

Previous annual reports can be found on the CCD website at: https://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=annual.php. Responses to questions 4-8 regarding anti-racism or intersectional efforts, or support needed, will remain confidential.

1. **Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement**

   The CCD Housing Task Force works to ensure that all people with disabilities have safe, stable, accessible, affordable, integrated housing that enables people to live in communities of their choosing, with full access to home and community-based services and supports. Through federal policy advocacy, we work to counter the impacts of historic and continued racist, ableist, and audist (among other forms of oppressive) policies and practices that cause the extreme lack of housing affordability, accessibility, availability, inclusion, and quality. We also acknowledge that the burden of these impacts is often most acute for those who experience multiple forms of marginalization; therefore, the solutions must center those most impacted. The CCD Housing Task Force works with non-governmental entities, Congress, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and other agencies to address these inequities and advance the rights of and access for all disabled people to stable, safe, accessible and affordable housing in communities of their choosing.

   The CCD Housing Task Force supports Housing First principles and that community and in-home support services should always be person-centered and voluntary. Due to decades of grassroots advocacy as well as legal and policy mandates, it is critical that housing solutions for people with disabilities support full integration, where people with and without disabilities can live together in the communities of their choice, and where disabled people have the same access to all amenities as non-disabled people. That said, we also acknowledge that the preservation and cultivation of Disability and Deaf culture are paramount to how we understand the housing crisis and approach the variety of solutions needed. For example, housing solutions need to account for the importance of peer socialization amongst Deaf people who use sign language because, without it, there is continued proof of language deprivation.

2. **Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023**
   a. **Strengthening the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development’s (HUD) Mainstream Voucher Program** by decreasing administrative barriers that make it harder for disabled people to access the program and obtain affordable, accessible, and integrated housing; and ensuring that HUD releases a NOFO for
Section 811 that utilizes all funds available and that the NOFO prioritizes all funds for integrated housing. The advocacy has advanced the following:

i. Mainstream Housing Voucher program flexibilities increased:
   1. “HUD proposes to provide PHAs with certain flexibilities in the administration of Mainstream, FUP and FYI programs. These flexibilities would allow PHAs to adopt certain specialized policies for these programs, enabling them to create separate waiting lists, extend the time households may search for housing, apply reduced screening criteria, and accept direct referrals from supportive service agencies. HUD further proposes to provide statutory flexibilities for PHAs to allow FUP and FYI programs the flexibility to adopt a 90- to 120-day referral timeline. It is difficult for youths to find units for lease within the current 90-day timeframe, which increases the risk that such persons would experience homelessness. This extended referral timeline would allow more people more time to enter these programs. There is no budgetary impact on this proposal.”

ii. Section 811 NOFO was released in Nov. 2023 with all remaining funds, and in Feb 2023, the Housing Task Force co-chairs spoke at HUD’s national roundtable on improving Section 811 PRA.

b. Safeguarding and increasing Congressional funding for key housing programs serving people with disabilities, including the Housing Choice Voucher program and Section 811 programs.

c. Help enhance fair housing laws, regulations, guidance, and practices for people with disabilities and other protected classes within HUD, DOJ, HHS, the White House, and other key federal agencies, with a key focus on collaborating with members to submit comments on the Section 504 ANPRM and the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) NPRM. We submitted additional comments on:
   i. HUD Administrative Burdens RFI
   ii. SSA Expansion of Rental Subsidy Policy NPRM

3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2024
   a. Safeguard existing funds and advocate for increased Congressional funding and Congressional guidance for key housing programs serving people with disabilities, such as the Housing Choice Voucher program and Section 811 program.

   b. Strengthen the implementation of key housing and housing-related programs that explicitly serve and include disabled people of all ages. Programs to be focused on include but are not limited to:
      i. Section 811 PRA, Capital Advance (including the upcoming recipients of the 2023 NOFOs), and 811 RAD conversions
      ii. Mainstream Housing Vouchers
iii. Programs funded across Medicaid and HUD that advance service-ready, integrated, affordable, accessible housing options (including but not limited to Housing & Services Accelerator Program and housing-related services through HCBS)

c. Enhance fair housing laws, regulations, guidance, and practices for people with disabilities and other protected classes within HUD, DOJ, HHS, the White House, and other key federal agencies. For example, we anticipate working on comments to HUD’s Section 504 NPRM.

4. Efforts to instill anti-racism into Task Force culture, policies, and practice in 2023
   a. Used intersectional lens in policy analysis for administrative advocacy and highlighted housing issues for disabled people of color, such as the need for language access for people with limited English proficiency and the criminalization of Black and Brown people among individuals experiencing homelessness
   b. Identified gaps in Task Force representation and knowledge (Native representation / expertise in Native issues)
   c. Maintained leadership and participation of BIPOC Task Force members despite turnover

5. Planned Efforts to instill anti-racism into Task Force culture, policies, and practice in 2024
   a. Evaluate the implications of Section 811 NOFO requesting grantees to explicitly address AFFH in their applications. We will advocate to ensure that Section 811 program implementation equitably serves BIPOC-disabled people. (We will also do the same for other programs/policies we work on.)
   b. We will partner with NDRN to invite the Native American Law Center to join the TF and continue to consider ways of diversifying TF membership/participation.
   c. Given limited capacity, we will prioritize advocacy efforts that promote racial equity for BIPOC individuals with disabilities.
   d. We will use an intersectional lens, including anti-racist, when responding to key public notices.

6. Outside organizations that could better inform TF anti-racism work in 2024 and any planned outreach
   a. Community Change, National Association of HUD Tenants, PolicyLink, National Center for Healthy Housing

7. Questions, concerns, identified challenges or support needed regarding Task Force and CCD anti-racism and intersectional efforts
   a. More communication/updates from CCD Anti-Racism Committee to help guide our own anti-racism work
8. Questions, concerns, identified challenges or support needed regarding Task Force work broadly.
   a. It can be very challenging when we get direct outreach from individuals who need direct support that we cannot provide.
   b. Competing priorities and limited time capacity

9. Task Force Meeting Day and Meeting Time (Eastern)
   3rd Thursday of each month, 12-1:30 pm Eastern

10. Co-Chair Contact for Accommodations Coordination (eg, ASL or CART)
    a. Allie Cannington, The Kelsey

11. Task Force Co-Chairs (list for 2023, if known; otherwise, list for 2023)
    Jennifer Kye, Justice in Aging
    Greg Robinson, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
    Allie Cannington, The Kelsey