



Innovative Residential Model Initiative:

Creating individually tailored options for adult developmental residential services.

Ministry of Community and Social Services
July 2007

In September 2004, MCSS announced our plans to change the system of services for adults with a developmental disability into one that exemplifies community engagement and is fair, accessible, and sustainable.

In 2006, we held many meetings across the province to ask adults with a developmental disability, their families, and the groups and organizations who support them what kind of services they want and need. You also showed us examples of creative living arrangements that are working well, as well as innovative residential models that we should consider.

We know that adults with a developmental disability, families and service providers are eager to move forward to create more individually tailored housing options. It's important to keep in mind that we need to put in place the foundation — such as a common application tool and a funding framework — so that the system we develop will be easy to use, fair, long-lasting and flexible. That's what we are working on now.

However, we also recognize there is a need now to start developing more options for housing arrangements.

That is why we are introducing a new initiative. Called the **Innovative Residential Model Initiative**, it will give adults with a developmental disability and their families the opportunity to propose individually tailored residential services concerning where and how they live. Working together, individuals, their families and service providers can develop proposals for housing options that are best suited to their personal needs, wants and dreams.

What is the Innovative Residential Model

The term Innovative Residential Model refers to alternative living arrangements that:

- meet the individual residential needs and circumstances of an adult with a developmental disability, and
- help the person live more independently in the community.

Here are some examples of alternative living arrangements:

- a separate suite in a home
- a co-ownership arrangement
- a rent-to-own arrangement (e.g. a private investor buys a home or provides the down payment and the person living in the home pays rent towards the mortgage with the intention of eventually becoming the owner)
- a co-operative home
- a Supported Independent Living (SIL) housing arrangement that provides greater than usual residential support services.

Some of these models already exist in the community, however, until this time the Ministry has not officially recognized these models formally within its provincial residential policy framework.

What it means for individuals and their families

Through consultation and planning, individuals and their families have the opportunity to develop an innovative residential proposal that takes into account their unique needs and circumstances and works to maximize their independence and involvement in community life.

What it means for agencies

The innovative residential approach allows agencies to create more responsive services and an opportunity to work with individuals and families to develop more individually tailored options.

Who is eligible to take part

The Innovative Residential Models Initiative is intended for adults with a developmental disability who:

- are currently receiving support within the residential service sector; or
- are prioritized to receive ministry-funded residential services in 2007/08

How to develop a proposal

Eligible individuals or their families work with a service provider or transfer payment agency to develop a detailed proposal that explains:

- the residential model that is being proposed
- how the funding requirements will address the individual's residential support needs, and
- how the proposal meets the evaluation criteria (See "How proposals are evaluated" below.)
- who will act as the lead agency and be responsible for providing the agreed supports to the person.

How to submit the proposal for funding

Submit the completed proposal to your local [Regional Office](#) of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Regional Offices will set their own due dates for the submission of proposals, depending upon local requirements. To find out the due date for your area, contact your local Regional Office.

How proposals are evaluated

To make sure that the review process is done consistently, the ministry has established an evaluation process using weighted criteria. Proposals that best meet the criteria and fit within the community's planning requirements will be considered for funding.

Here are the criteria against which proposals will be evaluated. (The weight is indicated by the number in the brackets.)

Intent (15)

- The individual, the family (if possible) and the service provider have worked together to develop the proposal.
- The proposal takes a person-directed approach and includes the supports needed to meet the individual's capabilities and needs.

Fit with community need/plan (15)

- The proposal takes into account the needs of the community and fits with local priorities, goals and objectives.

The person submitting the proposal:

- o has been prioritized to receive ministry-funded residential support in 2007/08, or
- o is currently receiving support within the developmental residential service sector.

Governance and accountability (20)

- The proposal outlines the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties involved in the initiative, including accountability and reporting requirements as applicable.
- The lead agency accepts responsibility for ensuring on-going contact with the individual, the residential network (i.e. all parties providing residential support) and outside community resources, where appropriate. The usual service delivery accountability requirements apply.
- Where appropriate, the proposal identifies relevant safety measures that will be implemented (e.g. staffing schedules, competencies).
- The proposal shows compliance with applicable legislation (e.g. health and safety legislation, residential tenancy legislation, building code and municipal requirements).

Service Provider Considerations (20)

- If the proposal is for an individual who is moving from an existing ministry-funded residential space to an innovative model:
 - o the lead agency agrees to keep the vacancy open to allow for a transitional period of time. (Although the length of time will be determined on a case by case basis, generally the time should not be less than three to four months.) This provides the time needed to make sure that the new living arrangement is suitable and sustainable.
 - o the service provider agrees to continue to provide the support services for the individual or has worked with the person to identify a suitable lead agency as appropriate.
- The proposal identifies a lead agency who is responsible for assuring accountability of funds and service outcomes.

Funding (10)

- Funding for the initiative should be managed within the context of the Regional Office annual residential targets and the amount of funding available.
- If the proposal is for an individual who is moving from an existing ministry-funded space to an innovative model, the proposed model must:
 - o be fully manageable by the service provider and the local service system

- o be within the Regional Office's budget (include meeting annual residential targets), and
- o not exceed the current residential costs for the individual.

Sustainability (20)

- The proposal addresses:
 - o how sustainability will be managed over time
 - o what steps (or process) will be taken to review sustainability on a regular basis, and
 - o how changes will be implemented as required.

For more information

Contact your local Regional Office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

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