

## Questions & Answers

### What are the benefits of living in a community?

Community is where a person feels safe, valued for their contributions, and able to freely pursue their interests. Community living aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and creates stronger, more diverse communities where all Nova Scotians are included.

### What do we mean by community-based living?

Community-based living includes having the option to live in smaller settings, or independently.

### What does this mean for people living in larger facilities?

We will maintain existing programming and supports as participants transition into the community. We will also be there to support participants as they prepare to move and once a new placement is identified.

### What if I want to move right away?

People will be prioritized based on their readiness and desire to move. Disability Support Program Care Coordinators are available to explain the process in more detail.

### What role will families and support networks have?

Each participant's support network and family will be involved in developing individual transition plans that ensure safety and honour participant choice.

### What about supports that currently aren't available?

We will work closely with participants, community partners, service providers, and families to identify and support individual needs. While we recognize that current community programming is unable to support everyone who currently lives in larger facilities, transition planning will help ensure participants continue to receive the supports they rely on.

## More Questions?

Contact your Care Coordinator at the Department of Community Services or visit the Department of Community Services website at:

[novascotia.ca/coms](http://novascotia.ca/coms)

# Moving to Community

## For Persons with Disabilities

Offering choice to people who want to live in the community.



*Better services,  
better lives in community*

## Consultation

Through consultation, we have developed a plan to allow people to move from larger facilities into community. The people we serve and their individual needs are the focus of the plan.

Residents of Adult Residential Centres (ARCs) and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs), their families, and teams provided input and ideas. This valuable feedback helped us identify several specific supports that will allow participants to live healthy and inclusive lives. These discussions also provided important insight into the questions and concerns of participants and their families.

In addition, our partners at the Department of Health and Wellness, the Nova Scotia Health Authority, our community-based service providers, and municipal leaders have been engaged. We also have looked to other provinces for lessons learned.

## What We Heard

Consultations were held with residents and families across the province. We heard:

- The choice of community location and the ability to live close to family and friends are top priorities.

- Supportive relationships, including those between residents and staff, are very important. Both residents and their family members want those relationships to continue.
- Moving to a community-focused model will likely require additional support staff.
- Maintaining and enhancing the level of available services is important to residents and their families.
- As the plan moves forward, residents and families want to continue to be involved and updated on progress.

## What's Next

### Creating New Community Homes

- We are committed to offering choice to people who want to live in community, where they are true community members with opportunities for personal growth, and the ability to contribute meaningfully in ways that make sense for them.
- Government is phasing out large institutional settings over time, in recognition of the positive impact community living can have on both Disability Support Program participants and communities.

- As part of this work, the Disability Support Program will significantly reduce new admissions to larger facilities while increasing the availability of community placements.

### Community Home Design

Approved home builders will supply a variety of community home models that meet participants' needs.

## What this means for current participants

- Every participant is important to us. We are committed to working closely with participants and their families, and ensuring people are engaged and involved every step of the way.
- As people move into community, we will ensure moves are safe and honour participant choice.
- Each participant's support network and family will be involved in developing individual transition plans.

