

# Accessible Housing and Neighborhoods: Designing for Everyone

**OBJECTIVE:** We need housing and neighborhoods that are physically accessible for Durham residents, regardless of ability or age. Seniors and residents with disabilities, low incomes, or fixed incomes need housing like single-story homes, senior care homes, and group living communities that are physically accessible and located throughout Durham. Residents need to be able to age in place and stay rooted in their communities, even as their physical or mental abilities change.

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**BACKGROUND:** Housing for older people or people with disabilities are currently segregated leaving few opportunities for residents to find affordable and accessible housing in their communities. Residents need ADA accessible housing available in different parts of the community, integrated with residents of different ages and abilities. Even when this housing exists, residents with mobility and visual needs have difficulty using the neighborhood surroundings, like parks, community spaces, sidewalks, and bus stops.

We want neighborhoods that have infrastructure and housing intentionally designed for everyone in mind. Sidewalks, greenways, and bus stops need to be safe and accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities, and to connect residents to the services they need. We want homes and neighborhoods designed with physical spaces that are enjoyable for people of all abilities and ages.

## Quotes from Durham Residents

“More accessible housing in all areas of the city (decent and safe)”

“handicapped accessible housing increased. Do not isolate in areas but in a mixed area with few children, consider ground build units”

“Housing for the elderly, safe travel for the elderly, housing affordability for seniors, placement of senior housing”

“All areas of city accessible to people with disabilities”

“All facilities would have access for wheelchairs or baby carriages. Everything would be handicapped accessible.”

“We need homes with 1st floor master bedroom. Most town homes are built with bedrooms all on the second floor. We have many residents with back and knee problems and require us to sleep in the dining room or on the couch”