

BY MELISSA FORTSON

HOUSING OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Below are examples of housing options for people with disabilities. Contact Pathfinder for other ideas or specific program information.

Privately owned subsidized housing. The government gives funds directly to apartment owners, who lower the rents they charge low-income tenants. These low-rent apartments are for senior citizens and people with disabilities, as well as for families and individuals. To apply, visit the management office for the apartment(s) that interest you. To find participating apartments, contact the local public housing authority. (Visit the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) at <http://www.hud.gov/renting/> for more information.)

Public housing. These are multifamily units, subsidized for people with disabilities who meet

income requirements. To apply, contact the local public housing agency.

Section 8 rental assistance (voucher) program. This program allows very low-income persons to choose and lease affordable privately-owned rental housing. The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects. To apply, contact the local public housing agency or Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) office that administers the program. These agencies also can provide a list of participating properties. (Visit the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) at <http://www.hud.gov/renting/> for more information.)

USDA Rural Development. This entity offers housing loans, low-interest mortgages and home rehabilitation grants and loans for persons meeting income guidelines.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

English & Español
(615) 322-8529
(800) 640-4636

TTY/TDD users:
please dial 711 for
free relay service

www.familypathfinder.org

tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu



Melissa Fortson is information & referral specialist/program coordinator with Tennessee Disability Pathfinder.

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: TENNESSEE HOUSING RESOURCES

These housing-related resources—and more!—can be found on the Pathfinder Web site at www.familypathfinder.org.

ACCESSIBLE BUILDING CONSORTIUM

A Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) that contracts with Metropolitan Nashville government to build affordable, accessible housing for older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers who meet income requirements.

Phone: (615) 206-7321

Email: accessiblebuilders@comcast.net

Web: www.accessiblebuilders.org

SELF-HELP BOOKLETS

The Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland publishes free, easy to read legal help booklets. Booklets address applying for low cost housing, renter's rights and more. The booklets are available on the Legal Aid Society's Web site at

<http://www.las.org> (click on "Self Help Booklets")

or by calling 1-800-238-1443.

TENNESSEE CREATING HOMES INITIATIVE

The "Housing Within Reach" Web site provides information about housing options for people with mental health and co-occurring

disorders. Housing resources for consumers and developers, consumer rights and other housing issues are addressed.

Web: <http://www.housingwithinreach.org>

TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

A statewide agency charged with preventing and eradicating discrimination in employment and housing. Contact the Commission for information about Fair Housing or if you feel your rights have been violated.

Phone: (800) 251-3589 • Web: www.state.tn.us/humanrights

TENNESSEE MANUFACTURED HOUSING ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Provides assistance to owners of manufactured homes, including the repair, improvement and sometimes replacement of manufactured homes.

Phone: 800-989-8642

Email: tnmhf@bellsouth.net • Web: <http://www.tnmha.org/>

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Builds ramps and collaborates with agencies, church and civic volunteers, and other groups to construct wheelchair ramps for individuals with mobility disabilities whose homes are without proper accessibility.

Phone: 615-242-4091

Email: request@ucpnashville.org • Web: <http://www.ucpnashville.org/>

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder has phone, Web and print resources in English and Spanish to connect the Tennessee disability community with service providers. Referral services, free of cost, are provided to persons with disabilities, family members, service providers and advocates. Pathfinder is a joint project of the **TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** and the **VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**.