

Profile of Albertans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)



Over **33,000** Albertans have an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD).¹

Albertans with IDD have the **lowest employment rate**

in the province, at 31%.²

This means the majority of Albertans with IDD lack the financial resources to pay for housing costs.



Albertans with IDD have one of the **highest rates of core housing need in the province** (21% - 26%).

An estimated 7,000-8,500 Albertans with IDD live in core housing need.³



It is estimated that **over 50%** of Albertans with IDD live with and rely on family members.⁴



+ Roughly 1,800 Albertans with IDD are living in institution-type facilities.⁵

Current Public Policy Aimed at Supporting the Housing Needs of Albertans with IDD is Failing

Participation in major government programs is very low, from **0.2% to 37%**. This is due to challenges with eligibility, navigability, and a lack of income to participate.⁶ For Albertans with IDD who are able to access programs, support levels are insufficient. **AISH* payments are at or below the poverty line** across every region in the province.⁷



There is a **severe shortage of affordable housing** in the province and Albertans with IDD are given no priority allocation.



There is a **major gap in research and data** on the housing needs and preferences of Albertans with IDD. As well, very little is known about their current housing.

Key Policy Recommendations to Better Support the Housing Needs of Albertans with IDD



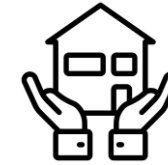
1. Increase income supports

- The federal government should expedite the creation of a national disability benefit.
- The provincial government should immediately increase AISH payments and resume indexing.
- The provincial government should improve access to AISH for Albertans with IDD.



2. Increase affordable housing supply

- All levels of government should invest in affordable housing for people with IDD. There is a shortage of at least 10,000 units of affordable housing for Albertans with IDD.
- The federal & provincial governments should direct investments to local governments and non-profits who provide housing to Albertans with IDD.



3. Improve access to supportive services

- The provincial government should take action on the findings of the PDD* Review Panel.
- The provincial government should expand PDD to support more Albertans with IDD.



4. Improve data and research

- Statistics Canada and CMHC should work together to ensure housing data for Canadians with IDD is collected and publicly reported at the provincial level.
- Core housing need data should be collected and reported by disability type.

This infographic is a summary of the report *Gaps and Opportunities in Affordable Housing Policy for Albertans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. It was created by the report author, **Cheryl Selinger**, in October 2021.

*AISH is Alberta's Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program; PDD is Alberta's Persons with Developmental Disabilities program. ^{1,2} Statistics Canada (Canadian Survey on Disability) 2017; ³ author's calculations - see report; ⁴ Crawford 2008, Berrigan, Scott and Zwicker 2020, Dudley and Nakane 2017; ⁵ Crawford 2008, Inclusion Canada 2020, Government of Alberta 2017; ⁶ various- see report; ⁷ Government of Alberta 2019, Statistics Canada (MBM) 2016