**Housing**

The Fair Shake Network (FSN) advocates for housing legislation that increases the statewide availability of accessible, economical, integrated, and safe community-based housing for people with disabilities.

**Facts:**

* According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 32.3% of West Virginian’s 18 years and older have some type of disability. (US 25.6%)
* Median Household Income in West Virginia is $51,248, ranking 49th out of the 50 states. (American Community Survey)
* Median Individual Income in West Virginia is $33,739. (American Community Survey)
* Average social security is $1,551.66, which is $18,619.92 annually. (Social Security Administration)
* Typical SSI Income is $794, which is $9,528 annually. (Social Security Administration)
* Of the 475,824 recipients in the state receiving social security, 77,602 receive social security due to disability. (Social Security Administration)
* 16.0% of West Virginia’s population is living in poverty. (American Community Survey)
* 100% of the 77,602 people with disabilities who receive SSI benefits are living in poverty with an annual income that is $3,082 dollars less than the State’s poverty level for one person. (Social Security Administration)
* Existing housing in West Virginia currently includes 6,242 units of public housing and 16,592 of housing choice voucher. (State Association of Housing Authorities)
* Median rent in West Virginia is $767 per month (which amounts to 97% of SSI recipient’s monthly income.) (American Community Survey)
* About 1 in 3 households using Section 8 vouchers are headed by a non-elderly (under the age of 62) person with a disability. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

**Issues**:

* For people with disabilities, there are far too many barriers to housing. Without affordable, accessible housing in the community, many are at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.
* Across West Virginia and the nation, many people with disabilities are experiencing an affordability crisis. Approximately 4.8 non-institutionalized people with disabilities who rely on federal monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have incomes averaging only about $9,156 per year – low enough to be priced out of every rental housing market in the nation. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
* Many people with disabilities live with aging caregivers (age 60 and older). As this generation of caregivers continues to age, many adult children may be at risk of institutionalization or homelessness. (The ARC).
* An accessible home offers specific features or technologies, such as lowered kitchen counters and sinks, widened doorways, wheelchair ramps and wheel-in-showers. For people who use mobility devices, finding housing with even basic accessibility features (e.g., an entrance with no steps) can be daunting, if not entirely impossible or unaffordable.
* The availability of affordable, accessible housing remains far less than a need, leaving far too many people with disabilities at risk of being institutionalized, stuck in institutional settings, homeless or “worst case” housing (paying too much in rent to be able to afford other basics or living in severely inadequate conditions). (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)
* The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. Complaints by people with disabilities often make up the majority of discrimination complaints received by HUD’s Fair Housing Enforcement Office and other fair housing agencies. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

~~(~~Statistics and Information were obtained from the American Community Survey, the Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The ARC, the State Association of Housing Authorities, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Housing Law Project)~~.~~

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