

Attachment A: Response Form

If you're a person with a disability, the family member of someone with a disability, a provider, or anyone else interested in this topic, please answer as many of the questions as you're interested in. If a question doesn't apply to you, feel free to skip it or answer "Don't Know."

Respondents should enter their answers on Attachment A (Response Form). If you need more space to write any of your answers, you can send a separate Word document. You're welcome to provide feedback on *any or all* of the RFI topics.

Topic 1. Expanding Housing Access

Many people with disabilities need affordable housing that is accessible. They may also need services to help them find community-based housing in order to move out of a facility, like a shelter or nursing home, or avoid having to move into one.

Please give us your feedback about Massachusetts housing options and what you believe is necessary going forward to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

1. Are you aware of programs and policies that work well to provide affordable housing that is accessible for people who use wheelchairs, can't climb stairs, or need changes because of hearing or visual disabilities? Which programs and policies have worked well for you?
2. Are you aware of programs and policies that work well to provide affordable housing that includes services for people with disabilities? Which programs and policies have worked well for you?
3. What new services or policies would help people with disabilities get affordable and/or accessible housing?
4. Are you aware of housing programs and policies that work well to prevent people with disabilities from becoming homeless? What programs and policies have worked well for you?
5. What services or policies are you aware of that help people with disabilities keep their housing if they have problems with their landlord?

6. What other services or policies would help prevent people with disabilities from becoming homeless?

Topic 2. Enhancing Long-Term Services

It's important to us to make sure people with disabilities have access to a broad range of community-based services. This helps people move into, and stay in, community-based settings. Each person should get to choose the services they need and have ready access to. People need access to services like medical, mental health, substance use, personal care, and other services to thrive in their homes and communities.

1. What services are working now? What are the strengths of Massachusetts's services and supports for helping people with disabilities move into, and stay in, community-based settings?

2. What are the biggest challenges related to services for people with disabilities in Massachusetts who want to live in community-based settings? What could Massachusetts do to help overcome those challenges?

3. What services, programs, or policies are needed to improve the promotion of community-based services as an alternative to facility-based care?

4. How can the state improve its existing programs and policies for promoting community-based services as an alternative to facility-based care?

5. How could Massachusetts make it easier for people with disabilities to get long-term services and supports?

Topic 3: Promoting Employment

We want to make sure people with disabilities have competitive job opportunities that are not segregated. This means they should be able to get the same opportunities and benefits, in the same work setting, as people without disabilities.

1. What programs and policies work well in Massachusetts to provide competitive, nonsegregated employment opportunities for people with disabilities?

2. How could Massachusetts improve access to and availability of competitive, nonsegregated employment opportunities for people with disabilities?

Topic 4: Investing in Transportation

Many people with disabilities rely on local or regional transportation systems. People with disabilities routinely say that transportation issues are a crucial concern.

1. Are you aware of programs and policies that work well to provide accessible transportation for people with disabilities? What programs and policies have worked for you?

2. How could Massachusetts improve access to, and availability of, transportation for people with disabilities?

Topic 5. Important General Questions

In addition to the four topics above, please tell us how else we can hear from people with disabilities, ensure equity, measure progress, and keep providing support for people with disabilities.

1. How could Massachusetts regularly collect and consider input from people with disabilities, including those who have experienced homelessness, to improve services and ensure respect for each person's preferences and choices?
2. How can Massachusetts ensure that support for people with disabilities is equitable regardless of race, ethnicity, income, and other factors?
3. What information should the state use to measure its progress in helping people with disabilities live, work, and thrive in their chosen communities? What data should Massachusetts collect?
4. If you could change one thing about Massachusetts's approach to helping people with disabilities in Massachusetts thrive in their chosen communities, what would you change?
5. If you have a disability, what contributes most to your wellbeing and your ability to live in your chosen community? This includes your social connections and community resources that support your overall wellbeing, not just state programs.

Please tell us about yourself.

I am (check all that apply)

- a person with a disability
- an older adult
- a family member of a person with a disability
- an advocate
- a service provider
- a housing provider
- an interested community member
- other (please specify)

If you are willing, please tell us more about your personal housing and service needs.

The part of Massachusetts (for instance, the county, city or town, or neighborhood) that I am most familiar with is:

Where do you receive or provide most of your services? (Check all that apply.)

- at home
- at work
- at a medical office
- in a day program
- in a hospital
- in a nursing facility
- in an assisted living facility
- in a rest home
- in a professional, nonmedical institution
- in a foster home or group home
- in jail or another correctional facility
- in someone's home
- other (please specify)