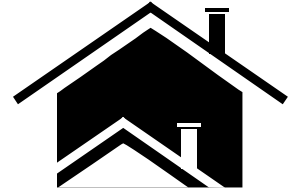


Residential Options for People with Mental Health or Developmental Disabilities in Wake Co.



**Wake Co. Local Management Entity
Access Center
3010 Falstaff Road
Raleigh, NC
919-250-3133**

Introduction

There are two types of support available to individuals who are either not able to live independently or cannot afford to do so. One type of assistance is **financial** and the other type is **support services**. Often, individuals with disabilities require both.

Financial assistance is available in the form of Medicaid Special Assistance, rental subsidies (Section 8 and CASA), HUD housing, homeownership programs for people with disabilities, and tax credit properties.

People with disabilities may also require **support services** to help maintain their homes and meet their daily personal care and safety needs. A broad continuum of support services is available depending on a person's level of need. Support services range from a few hours per week to round the clock awake supervision. Services can be provided in an individual's home, family member's home, an apartment, or in a group living situation.

The LME's mission as assessor of services and manager of available resources is to help people with mental health or developmental disabilities live where and how they want as best they can. The residential service system is designed to offer informed choice and flexibility so that people may live successfully with the support appropriate to their level of need and according to their personal preferences.



The only way to know for certain whether or not a particular residential option is appropriate for you or a family member, is to visit, talk to other residents and staff, ask questions, and maintain frequent contact and visits.

Access to Publicly Funded Services:

Mental Health Substance Abuse Developmental Disability

Wake County LME Access Center is the doorway to services that are a part of the Local Management Entity's System of Care.

If you or a family member need help for a mental health, developmental disability or substance abuse issue, you can call Wake County LME's Access Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:

Local 919-250-3133

Toll free 1-866-518-6784

TTY 919-250-1499

Interpreter is available at no expense to the caller

Developmental Disability Residential Services

Independent Living

For people who are capable of living on their own or with a room mate with some support such as assistance with budgeting, grocery shopping, menu planning, household maintenance, health and safety monitoring, etc. Independent living is provided in the individual's own home or apartment. These services are most often a combination of **Targeted Case Management** and **Personal Care** and based on needs identified in the individual's Person Centered Plan.

Supervised Living Low (Boarding Home)

For people needing more than periodic support, but not needing 24 hour supervision. This is a group living situation: five people sharing a home that is owned by an agency. The agency provides routine visits and on-call support from staff. Typically a staff person is available in the home during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Residents rely on one another for assistance, guidance, and role modeling. There is no staff present over night.

Residents pay a flat fee for room and board (somewhere around \$500/month) and Wake Co. LME funds the staff support. Some people use boarding homes as a transition from a group or family home to living on their own. There are three Boarding Homes in Wake Co. (one for men and two for women), all managed by Residential Support Services, Inc (919-787-1214)

Alternate Family Living (AFL) .5600F

In Alternate Family Living, a person with a developmental disability resides with an individual or family other than their own to receive habilitative care. This is an expensive service and typically available only to CAP-MRDD (NC Medicaid Waiver) recipients.

Group Living –Moderate .5600C

These group homes provide 24-hour personal care and habilitation to individuals with a developmental disability in order to help them develop self-help skills, have a work experience, and participate in community activities. Group homes are owned or leased by agencies which contract with Wake Co. LME to provide residential services. Room and board is paid by a combination of the resident's Social Security income and a Medicaid service called Special Assistance. Each home is licensed and monitored by the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation and typically serve 5 or 6 individuals per home. Most bedrooms are shared. Staffing patterns include overnight coverage (asleep or awake, depending on the level of service available in the home).

Agencies contracting with the LME to provide Group Living- Moderate include:

Autism Services, Inc. (2 homes)
Lutheran Family Services (1 home)
Residential Support Services (3 homes)
RHA/Howell's (1 home)
Easter Seals/UCP (2 homes)

Referrals to these homes come from the LME Developmental Disability Services waiting list only.

Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR)

An ICF-MR is the most intensive residential service available to individuals with developmental disabilities. ICFs are funded by Medicaid to serve individuals with intensive medical or behavioral needs who need more than a typical group home offers, but less than skilled nursing level of care (hence the title: intermediate). Some ICF's are large (the largest in Wake County has 30 beds), but most have six beds. In addition to personal care and habilitation, specialized therapies and

active treatment must be provided in an ICF. Awake staff provide overnight supervision. North Carolina's regional Mental Retardation Centers (O'Berry, Murdoch, Caswell) are licensed as ICF-MR.

Agencies managing ICF-MR homes in Wake Co. include:

Autism Services (2 homes, six residents each)
Community Alternatives, Inc./Rescare (15 6-bed homes)
Community Innovations (2 homes, 6 residents each)
Tammy Lynn Center for DD (30 residents on campus)

Referrals to these homes come from the LME Developmental Disability Services waiting list only.

Other Residential Options (Not funded by Wake Co. LME - referrals do not have to come from the LME DD Services waiting list)

Mental Health/Supervised Living for Adults Disabled by Mental Illness (.5600A) or Developmental Disability (.5600C)

These group homes do not receive funding from Wake Co. LME. 24-hour personal care and habilitation is provided to individuals disabled by mental illness or developmental disability in order to help them develop self-help skills, have a work experience, and participate in community activities. Group homes are owned or leased by providers and are licensed by the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation. Wake Co. Human Services Local Management Entity (LME) has responsibility for receiving critical incident reports, investigating complaints, and mediating problems that arise between a resident and operator. Room and board is paid by a combination of the individuals Social Security income and a Medicaid service called Special Assistance. Each home is licensed and monitored by the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation and typically serve 5 or 6 individuals per home. Most bedrooms are shared. Staffing patterns include overnight coverage (asleep or awake, depending on the level of service available in the home).

A list of licensed supervised living group homes is available by county on North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation's website:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/data/mhllist.pdf>. Go to "Mental Health Home Listing" and look for homes with .5600 C licenses (DD Supervised Living).

Assisted Living/Family Care Homes

When **Assisted Living Facilities** (which can be as large as over 100 residents) have only six beds, they are called **Family Care Homes**. 24-hour personal care

services (bathing, dressing, grooming, medication administration) is provided. These facilities are licensed by the North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation and overseen by Wake Co. Human Services/Social Services. *Assisted Living Facilities and Family Care Homes are not required to provide habilitation, community participation, or transportation to work/day program.* Many residents of Family Care Homes are frail/elderly and no longer able to live independently.

For more information about assisted living, adult care, and family care homes, visit Wake County Human Services' website at:
<http://www.wakegov.com/humanservices/adult/adultcare/default.htm>.

Financial Assistance

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV Section 8)

The Housing Choice Voucher program (more commonly known as Section 8) is administered by the Housing Authority to help people with limited income pay for rental housing. Section 8 vouchers are awarded to individuals who meet income, credit, and criminal record qualifications. There is no *minimum* income requirement.

Section 8 vouchers are "rental assistance", meaning the tenant pays a portion of the rent (usually around 30% of their income) and the Housing Authority pays the rest directly to the landlord. Vouchers are used to live in a conventional rental unit (apartment, townhouse, etc.), of the tenant's choice, managed by a private landlord. The tenant's portion of the rent increases as their income goes up, but they do not have to move if their income increases to the point they no longer need rental assistance.

Section 8 recipients must find a landlord that will accept a Section 8 voucher and the rent must fall within what HUD has identified as fair market rent. The benefit to the landlord is that rental assistance from the Housing Authority is guaranteed as long as the unit is occupied.

Funds in this program are generally exceeded by demand. Because it offers personal choice, the Section 8 waiting list is much longer than the Public Housing waiting list. People are generally required to wait years for this type of assistance.

For more information or to apply for a Section 8 voucher, contact:

Raleigh Housing Authority
616 Tucker St.

Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 831-6926
<http://www.rhaonline.com/>

Wake Co. Housing Authority

100 N. Allen Rd.
Wake Forest, NC 27587
(919) 556-1059

Tax Credit Property

Tax Credit property is available through partnership between private business and government by means of a program called Low Income Housing Tax Credit. In exchange for providing rental housing for low-income individuals at a reduced rental rate, property owners/investors receive a substantial tax break in the form of tax credit. This allows real estate owners/investors the opportunity to give back to the community in a humanitarian way and increases affordable housing options for low-income individuals.

Referrals are accepted only from agencies participating on the Wake Co. Housing Support Committee. Talk to your service provider about whether or not they can refer you to a Tax Credit property.

For more information, contact:

NC Dept. of Health & Human Services
Office of Housing and Homelessness
Stacy Hurley, Targeted Unit Coordinator
919-401-6850
stacy.hurley@dhhs.nc.gov

CASA

CASA is a nonprofit community development organization that develops and manages safe and supportive housing for persons challenged by disabilities and persons struggling with financial limitations. Many CASA properties require tenants to have a service provider in order to be considered for housing.

For more information contact CASA directly:

624 West Jones Street
Raleigh NC 27603
919.754.9960
<http://www.casanc.org/>

Special Assistance

There is a financial program available to help cover the cost of living in an Adult Care Home or Supervised Living Group Home called State/County Special Assistance. An adult is eligible for this program if he/she is disabled (by Social Security's definition), a NC resident (for at least 90 days unless moved here to be close to an immediate care giving family member), meets the allowable income and resource limits, and is a current resident or in the process of becoming a resident of an adult care home or supervised living group home that is licensed by the Division of Health Service Regulation and is authorized to receive State/County Special Assistance payments. If an adult receives State/County Special Assistance, he/she is automatically eligible for Medicaid. An application for Special Assistance may be made at Wake County Human Services, 212-7000.

Wake Co. Human Services' Supportive Housing Program

Wake County Human Services provides information and referral on housing and housing products throughout Wake County. Information is available on: down payment assistance, mortgage products, homeownership counseling, apartment vacancies, rental assistance, credit/budgeting classes, senior/disabled housing, and much more.

Ready to Rent: 12 hours of training to overcome screening barriers such as criminal, credit and poor rental history and obtain safe, decent, and affordable housing. Cost: \$25

Housing Information Sessions: Information and resources are provided daily at 4:00 pm. Sign-in at the information desk at 220 Swinburne St.

Shelter Plus Care/Wake Co. Housing Voucher Program For people who are both disabled and homeless – must be referred by a Wake LME endorsed provider who must commit to regular home visits. Contact: Wanda Teel (919) 856-5350 For more information about these and other programs contact:

Wake Co. Human Services Supportive Housing Program

A.A. Thompson Center
567 E. Hargett Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
919-856-5277

Or visit the website:

www.wakegov.com/humanservices/economic/housing/resources