

# Who Can Apply?

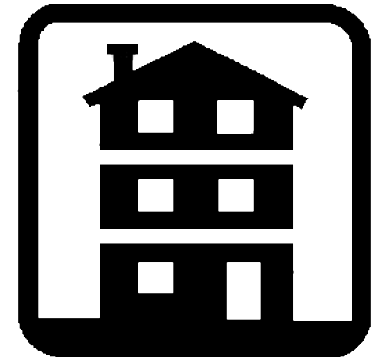
**Eligibility requirements are as follows:**

1. Individual diagnosed with HIV or AIDS and/or
2. Families in which one or more individuals is diagnosed with HIV or AIDS.
3. Gross monthly household income, with any permissible adjustments, does not exceed 80% of the Family Median Income of the area, according to federal guidelines.



Phone: 203-729-3299  
Video Phone: 203-490-2373  
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# Housing Opportunities



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## Who is Independence Northwest?

Independence Northwest is unlike any other service provider you have encountered before. Independence Northwest is an organization run by people with disabilities for people with disabilities. This is referred to as consumer control, and our consumers take direct control over the direction and goals of their own personal services. We share your frustration with the "system" because a majority of our staff, management and Board of Directors are disabled themselves. We have personally faced the same barriers you face every day. We've learned how to overcome many of the obstacles that stood in our way of leading more independent lives and can show you how to do the same.

## What is the Housing Opportunities Program?

The Housing Opportunities Program (HOP) of Independence Northwest assists persons and families living with HIV or AIDS to sustain affordable housing.

It is one of many services we offer to people with disabilities living in the northwest corner of Connecticut. Through independent living skills, case management, peer counseling, and the development of a living plan, consumers are empowered to overcome obstacles to independent living and create their own future. Program participants or consumers, control all aspects of the services for which they are eligible. Individuals and families work closely with the Housing Coordinators (HC) to obtain and maintain housing through assistance with entitlements, employment, applications to various offerings through local housing authorities, or other solutions. By providing economic relief through housing assistance, HOP allows persons with HIV or AIDS to achieve long-term goals that may not be possible without housing support services. We encourage consumers to develop goals and work with the HC to complete the steps toward achievement of their goals. It is the primary mission of the HOP to improve the quality of consumers' lives and the consumers overall capacity for independent living.

Housing Opportunities provides rental subsidies for persons living with HIV or AIDS typically for up to 24 months, or until permanent, stable, affordable housing is secured.

Rental subsidies will be based upon the gross household income. Consumers are required to pay rent in the amount that is 30% of the gross monthly household income. Adjustments to the gross monthly income will be offered to consumers who qualify. Consumers must provide documentation of the gross household income and documentation for any allowable deductions offered by the program. Rental subsidy checks will be mailed directly to the landlord one week before the first of the month. All units subsidized by this program must be inspected prior to occupancy, and annually thereafter, to insure that each unit meets the Federal Housing Quality Standards. In keeping with our mission to serve persons with disabilities, all units must be accessible for persons with disabilities who need accessible housing in accordance with federal and/or state requirements.

