



## Special Needs Households

Under Florida Statute, a person with special needs is defined as:

- An adult person requiring independent living services in order to maintain housing or develop independent living skills and who has a disabling condition.
- Disabling condition means a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, or the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions, and a determination that the condition is: (a) Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; and (b) not expected to impair the ability of the person with special needs to live independently with appropriate supports.
- A young adult formerly in foster care who is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(5);
- A survivor of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28;
- A person receiving benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or from veterans' disability benefits. (Section 420.0004 (13), Florida Statutes)

## Income Definitions

A household is considered to be "low income" if household income is at or below 60 percent of the area median income (AMI)

ELI/or cost burdened if household income is 30% (federal definition) 40% (Florida definition) of AMI.

Severely cost burdened if household income is 15% AMI.

## Support Services

Individuals with special needs generally require an array of services to maintain their housing. A key service is case management and for persons considered ELI rental assistance.

Other support services range from traditional clinical treatment services to housing assistance services.

Housing assistance services are services such as tenant orientation/move-in assistance, housekeeping, cooking, shopping and other independent living skills, apartment safety skills, and using public transportation.

Other supports include job/educations skills, and respite care.

## Resources

The best resource to find affordable housing is Florida is Florida Housing Finance Corporation's online search [FloridaHousingSearch.org](http://FloridaHousingSearch.org) .

Corporation for Supportive Housing: <http://www.csh.org/>

National Low Income Housing Coalition: <http://nlihc.org/>