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Housing remains one of the most vexing and difficult issues for those with SCI. Housing is difficult and expensive for anyone to find, and when one adds complications of having special needs, accessibility requirements and low income, finding affordable and accessible housing becomes an even more formidable task. The agencies and organizations listed below can help.

Included in this chapter are agencies and services that can offer help with information or housing referrals. You might begin your search for accessible housing by contacting your local Independent Living Center (ILC). *See Chapter 13 for a listing of ILC's throughout Northern California.* The ILC staff may keep listings of accessible housing units in the area, or may be able to guide you to some local publications that have such listings. To locate an ILC near you, contact the Independent Living Research Utilization Project (ILRU) at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIIR), 2323 S. Sheppard, Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77019, 713/520-0232, or the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), 1916 Wilson Blvd., Suite 209, Arlington, VA 22201, 703/525-3406.

HOUSING INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI)

651/645-7271

800/466-7722

FAX: 651/645-0541

2550 University Ave., Suite 330

St. Paul, MN 55114

- A non-profit organization that provides accessible, affordable housing and support services for adults with mobility impairments and/or brain injuries

Aris

408/293-2747

1550 The Alameda, Suite 100

San Jose, CA 95126

- AIDS and HIV support agency offering emotional and practical support to those with AIDS and HIV and their family members
- Shared housing and listings of rooms for rent with other people with HIV/AIDS

Asian-Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)

408/975-2730

2400 Moorpark Ave., Suite 300

San Jose, CA 95128

- Housing information and referral

12. Housing Agencies and Resources

California Fair Employment and Housing Department

408/277-1264

- Offers assistance with discrimination and harassment in housing or employment, including acts of violence and discrimination in public services

Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

408/275-8770

FAX: 408/280-0358

505 West Julian St.

San Jose, CA 95110

- This agency provides subsidized rent for qualified individuals
- Currently closed to new applicants due to the large wait list

Housing for Independent People (HIP)

408/283-2200

888 N. First St., Suite 201

San Jose, CA

- Non-profit housing developers for people with special needs, including those with physical disabilities
- Housing referral

McLaughlin House

408/993-0453

1558 McLaughlin Ave.

San Jose, CA 95122

Contact: Carmen Mestas - Manager

- Shared housing for individuals with SCI

Mid-Peninsula Housing Management

Vivente I

408/279-2706

2400 Enborg Ln.

San Jose, CA 95128

- Accessible apartments - 29 total
- Eligibility requirements: Must be low income and mobility impaired
- Wheelchair dependent
- Must be resident of Santa Clara County and demonstrate the capability to live independently and manage your own household

12. Housing Agencies and Resources

Milpitas Housing Services

408/946-6582

FAX: 408/720-0810

1055 Sunnyvale Saratoga, Suite 3

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Website: <www.mediate4us.com>

- Dispute resolution between landlord and tenant
- First time homebuyer assistance
- Subsidized housing

Palo Alto Mediation Program

Mountain View: 650/969-0495

Palo Alto: 650/856-4062

430 Sherman Ave., Suite 308

Palo Alto, CA 94306

Website: <www.housing.org>

- Assists in tenant/landlord mediation

National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse

800/421-1221

201 W. Union St., Suite 220

Alexandria, VA 22314

Website: <www.aptsforrent.com/naac>

- Maintains a national registry of apartment units designed to accommodate wheelchair users

Project Match

408/287-7121

FAX: 408/287-3764

555 Meridian Ave., Suite C

San Jose, CA 95126

- This program provides referrals for shared housing - matching those persons seeking to share their home with those who are seeking a place to live
- Must have independent living skills in order to participate in program

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Accessible and Universal Design in Housing

Website: <www.design.ncsu.edu/cud>

- Federally funded program that conducts research leading to new scientific knowledge and new or improved methods, procedures and devices to benefit people with disabilities

12. Housing Agencies and Resources

Salvation Army Corps

408/720-0420

1161 S. Bernardo

Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Gilroy: 408/848-5373

San Jose: 408/998-2064

- Provides rental assistance

Salvation Army - Social Services

408/282-1165

359 North 4th Street

San Jose, CA 95112

- Rent and utilities assistance
- Emergency food
- Information and referral
- Specific zip codes served

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

408/894-9041

FAX: 408/894-9050

2306 Zanker Rd.

San Jose, CA 95131

Website: <www.svilc.org>

- Provides information and referral regarding available, accessible housing options and a computer list of available housing
- Residential Training Program provides comprehensive independent living skills training in a live-in situation (single family home). It addresses self-care and homemaking skills, community mobility, personal assistant management, social skills and pre-vocational development

Wheelchair Accessible Home Clearinghouse

610/942-3266

Website: <www.waccess.org>

- Website that lists realtors who specialize in accessible homes
- Classified advertisements listed

12. Housing Agencies and Resources

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEBUYERS

Fannie Mae Consumer Resource Center

800/7-FANNIE

202/752-7124

Website: <www.fanniemae.com>

- HomeChoice is a single-family mortgage loan developed by Fannie Mae to meet the needs of low and moderate income individuals with disabilities or those that have a family member with a disability in the household
- Will provide a list of lenders

HOME MODIFICATIONS

Handyman Connection

408/294-5900

1460 Tully Rd.

San Jose, CA

Fremont: 510/440-0199

- Group of retired handymen that will build ramps, install grab bars, etc. for a reasonable rate

BOOKS:

Building For A Lifetime: The Design and Construction of Fully Accessible Homes (1994)

Margaret Wyld, Adrian Baron-Robbin and Sam Clark

The Taunton Press

800/888-8286

Newton, CT 06470-5506

Website: <www.taunton.com>

The Accessible Housing Design File (1991)

Ronald L. Mace

John Wiley and Sons

800/225-5945

One Wiley Dr.

Somerset, NJ 08875

Website: <www.wiley.com>

12. Housing Agencies and Resources

Planning for Access: A Guide to Planning and Modifying Your Home (1996)

Eastern PVA Publications Department

800/444-0120

75-20 Astoria Blvd.

Jackson Heights, NY 11370-1177

Website: <www.epva.org>

Residential Remodeling and Universal Design:

Making Homes More Comfortable and Accessible (1996)

HUD User

800/245-2691

P.O. Box 6091

Rockville, MD 20849

Website: <www.huduser.org>

Ramps and Accessible Thresholds (1997)

ABLEDATA Fact Sheet #27

ABLEDATA

800/227-0216

8455 Colesville Rd.

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Website: <www.abledata.com/ramps.htm>

VIDEOTAPES:

Building and Remodeling for Accessibility (1993)

PBS Hometime (Show #4056)

HomeTime Video Publications, Inc.

800/489-9955

4275 Norax Dr.

Chaska, MN 55318

Website: <www.hometime.com>