

The RDSP Homeownership Plan: Improving Access to Homeownership for Canadians with Disabilities



Canadians with developmental disabilities **can** and **do** own their own homes. Many more people with developmental disabilities would like to become homeowners - but don't have access to the same homeownership tools that Canadians without a disability have. To equip people with disabilities and their families, *My Home My Community* has developed a potential tool to help more people with disabilities become homeowners. The RDSP Homeownership Plan uses the Registered Disability Savings Program (RDSP) to support homeownership.

The RDSP Homeownership Plan has identified two simple changes to the RDSP that would help more Canadians with disabilities to own their own homes:

- **Broader eligibility and flexibility for Bonds and Grants** to help more people save for homeownership. Everyone with an RDSP would be eligible to access Grants and Bonds sooner, to give accounts more time to grow, whether or not they decide to buy a home.
- **A new withdrawal option** so that people can use their RDSP savings to purchase a home without withdrawal penalties. This would allow people to make a penalty-free withdrawal from their RDSP at any age, but only if they are investing those funds in the purchase of a home.

What does the RDSP Homeownership Plan mean for you?

1. **Enabling people with disabilities and their families to use their savings towards homeownership.** The RDSP Homeownership Plan would make it easier for people with disabilities and their families to start and grow RDSP savings and ensure that people with developmental disabilities who want to become homeowners can use these savings to purchase a home when the time is right.
2. **Giving people with disabilities access to more inclusive housing options.** By improving access to homeownership, the RDSP Homeownership Plan would create a pathway for more Canadians with developmental disabilities to live independently in the community, in homes of their choosing.
3. **Promoting long-term housing stability and financial security for people with disabilities.** The RDSP Homeownership Plan would make it easier for people with developmental disabilities to purchase homes earlier in their lives - homes that provide stability, control, and financial security now and in the future.

What's next?

People with developmental disabilities deserve access to the same range of housing options as Canadians without disabilities, including homeownership - and deserve the tools to help them get there. My Home My Community and its partners will be calling for the federal government to implement the RDSP Homeownership Plan. To stay up to date with our work, follow us at www.myhomemycommunity.ca.