
Mayor's Disability Council



Alex Madrid
Sheri Albers
Co-Chairs

Nicole Bohn
Director

Malena Leon-Farrera

March 12, 2024

Dear Malena,

Thank you for the report on the Housing Needs Assessment Implementation Plan that you provided to the Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) at the February 15, 2024 public meeting. The MDC would like to express its strong support for the recommendations in the plan since, as the needs assessment demonstrated, this is such a compelling need for very significant numbers of people with disabilities in San Francisco.

We are aware that your work on this plan for the Planning Department is limited to one year, which will come to an end in March. One of the significant challenges to seeing progress on this issue is coordination, especially considering the decentralized nature of public housing management in San Francisco. We are very concerned that without a designated coordinator, all of the high quality work that has been done so far could be stalled and at worst, forgotten. We urge the City to make sure the implementation of these recommendations will be coordinated by employees who are able to dedicate their time to this task, and that it not be one more job responsibility added to an already full plate.

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We would also like to make one additional recommendation that would improve the value of the DAHLIA portal to people with disabilities, which is to make it easier for people with disabilities to assess their eligibility for housing early in the process. Information about accessible units should be readily available and easy to find, and income eligibility information specifically related to those units, as well. Some people have reported to us their frustrations when they have invested time into their application, only to discover that they are not eligible much later.

We hope there will be ways for MDC members to express their support for these recommendations and for the continuation of San Francisco's focus and coordination of implementation. Please keep us informed about upcoming opportunities.

Sincerely,

Alex Madrid, Co-Chair

CC: Rich Hillis, Planning Director
Nicole Bohn, Director, Mayor's Office on Disability
Lisa Chen, Planning Department
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