



# ADDRESS THE LACK OF ACCESSIBLE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

*Increase access to accessible housing for individuals with SMA and other disabilities*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding to subsidize and develop accessible and affordable housing for low-income adults with disabilities through the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Program. To qualify for this program a tenant must be at or below 30 percent of the Area Medium Income and must be eligible for community based long-term services through their state. ([Source: HUD Exchange](#))
- Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 protects individuals with disabilities against housing discrimination, requires 5 percent of housing units in complexes greater than 5 units be accessible, and requires specific design features in new housing complexes that allow for units to be easily modified for accessibility. ([Source: ADA](#))

## CURE SMA POSITION

Cure SMA urges Congress to promote the rights of people with SMA and other disabilities to have access to accessible, safe, and affordable housing.

- Increase funding for Section 811 housing, a program that provides funding to develop and subsidize rental housing for low-income adults with disabilities and protect eligibility for individuals within that program.
- Incentivize the expansion of accessible-affordable housing for those with disabilities that would not qualify for existing public programs due to income thresholds.

## WHY CONGRESS SHOULD ACT

Many individuals with SMA and other disabilities have difficulties finding accessible housing that they can afford. The current housing assistance available at the federal, state, and local levels focus on finding affordable accessible housing or assisting with modifications to make housing accessible.

Rental programs under Section 811 provide accessible housing assistance for those with low-incomes, however [81 percent of families with SMA](#) have a household income of above \$21,000, which in many states may disqualify families from section 811 accessible housing. These programs additionally often have long wait times.

The requirements of the Fair Housing Amendments Act create accessible housing; however these buildings are newer and often more expensive. As a result, there is a hole in the accessible housing market for working adults with disabilities that are ineligible for Section 811 due to their income, but that cannot afford to live in a newer building with an accessible unit.



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[Cure SMA](#) is a national organization that advocates for individuals with spinal muscular atrophy, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that robs people of physical strength, taking away their ability to walk, swallow, and breathe.