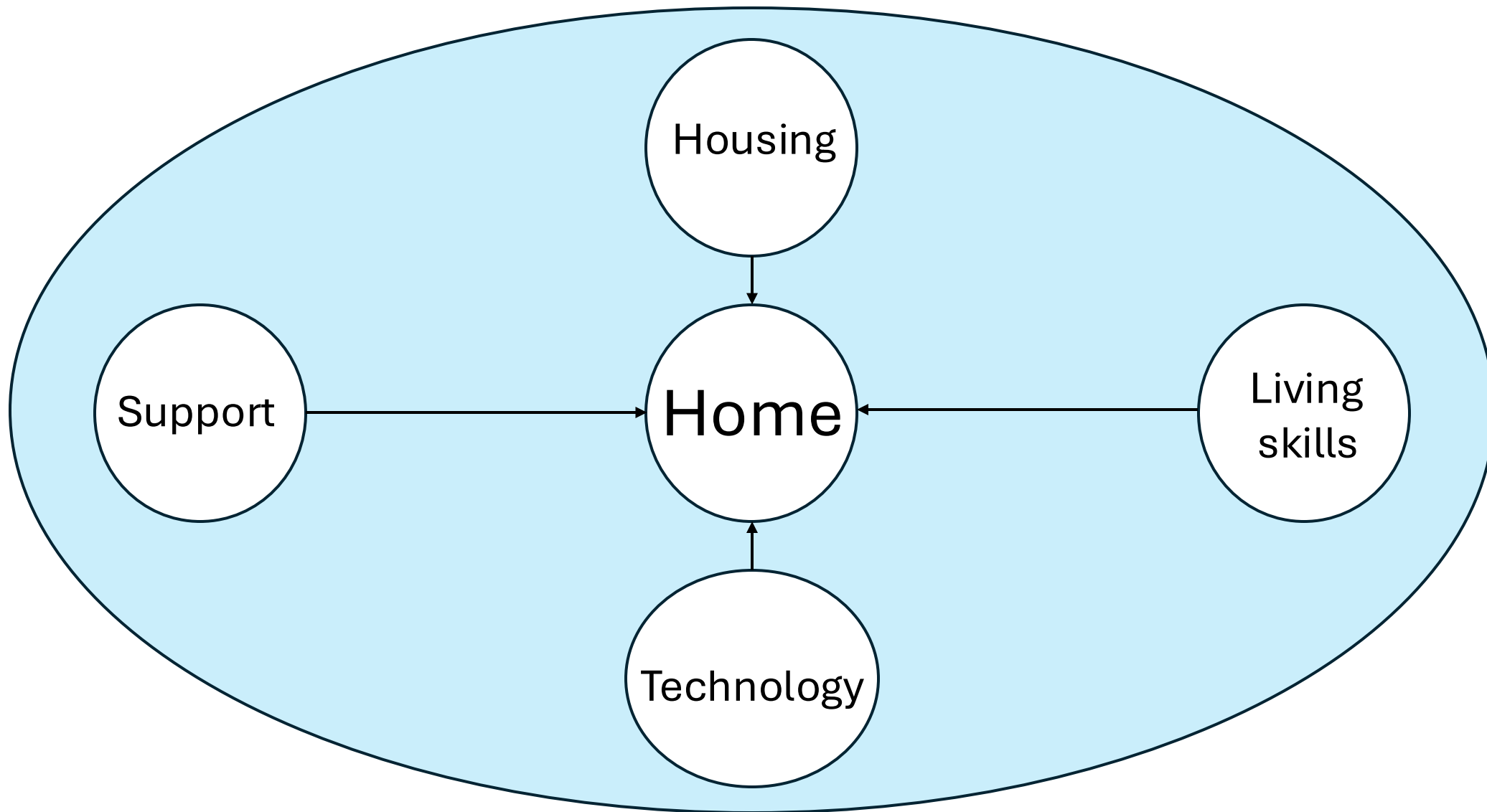


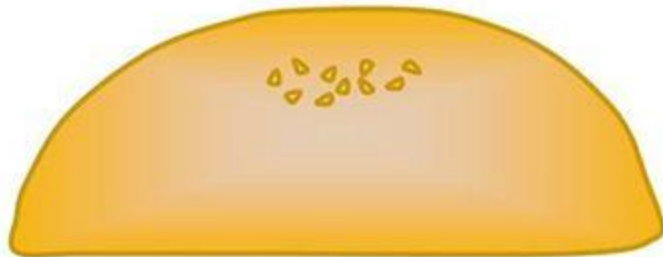
# Choice





# Supported housing is a sandwich

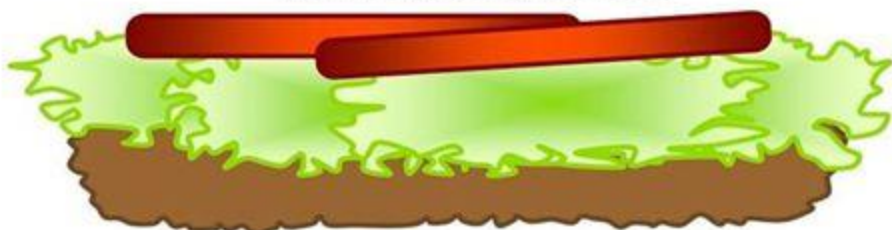
Unpaid support from family and friends  
(top bun)



Private-pay services  
(mustard, ketchup, and relish)



Government-funded services  
(tomatoes, lettuce, and meat)



Affordable or subsidized housing  
(bottom bun)



Cap your sandwich off with unpaid support from family and friends

Private-pay services are the condiments (go light on this if you can)

- If your family member needs additional support, you may need to pay for some of it

Government-funded services is the meat

- These can include services from DDS and MassHealth, or federal benefits, such as Social Security and SNAP

Affordable or subsidized housing is your bottom bun

- The subsidy may be attached to a specific unit or it might be a portable voucher

## Affordable and subsidized housing options for people with disabilities in Massachusetts

(Follow key to determine how to search and apply)

	Federal	State	Private
<b>Site-based (subsidy is attached to an address)</b>	Section 8  Elderly/ disabled (sometimes)  Family (can be a household of one person)	Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)  Elderly/ Disabled  Family (can be a household of one person)	30%, 40%, and some 50% Area Median Income (AMI) units (pay a percentage of income in rent)  Some 50% AMI, and all 60%-100% AMI units (fixed rent, but lower than market rate – may combine with portable Section 8)
<b>Portable (subsidy is attached to a person)</b>	Section 8	MRVP  Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) for adults with disabilities	

Search/application key:



<https://18section8.org/index.php/section-8/>



CHAMP: [www.mass.gov/champ](http://www.mass.gov/champ)  
 (More information on AHVP is at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/alternative-housing-voucher-program-ahvp>; more information on MRVP is at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-rental-voucher-program-mrvp>))



[www.HousingWorks.net](http://www.HousingWorks.net) or [www.housingnavigatorma.org](http://www.housingnavigatorma.org)

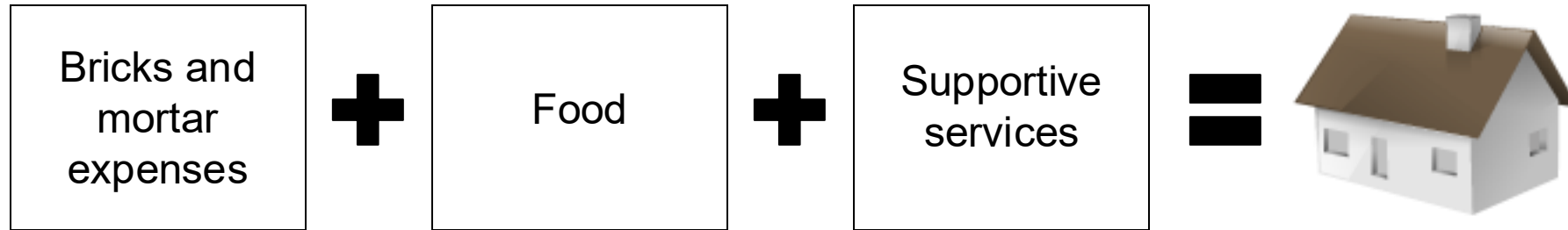
<https://autismhousingpathways.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/HousingSearchApplicationGrid-2025.pdf>

# Using the housing search and application grid

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poVMj1qPOHw>
- As a rule of thumb, complete a basic set of applications:
  - Section 8 portable (gold on the grid) (directions are at <https://18section8.org/index.php/section-8/> )
  - The CHAMP (Common Housing Applications for Massachusetts Programs) (blue on the grid) for state-funded housing at [www.mass.gov/champ](http://www.mass.gov/champ)):
    - Public housing
    - AHVP (apply to all communities)
    - MRVP (all portable vouchers; site-based only if your community has it)
  - 2-3 others using a search engine like [www.HousingWorks.net](http://www.HousingWorks.net) (more comprehensive) or [www.housingnavigatorma.org](http://www.housingnavigatorma.org) (more user friendly) (purple on the grid)
- Use a checklist\* to personalize the set of applications.
- Track your applications using a spreadsheet\*.
- Detailed directions are at [www.18section8.org](http://www.18section8.org).

\* <http://18section8.org/index.php/document-library/>

# Funding streams



SSI	SSI	SSI
SSDI	SSDI	SSDI

Section 8

Food stamps  
(SNAP or  
Bay State  
CAP)

MassHealth  
(Medicaid)

Other  
"affordable  
housing"

DDS  
DMH\*

DDS  
DMH\*

DDS  
DMH\*

Private  
resources

Energy/utility  
assistance

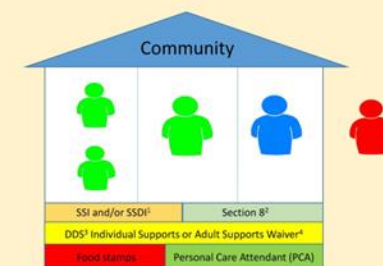
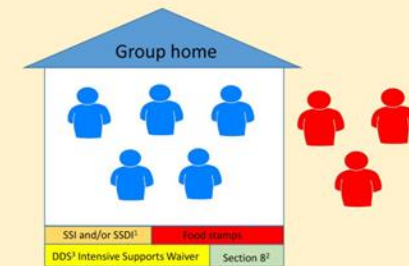
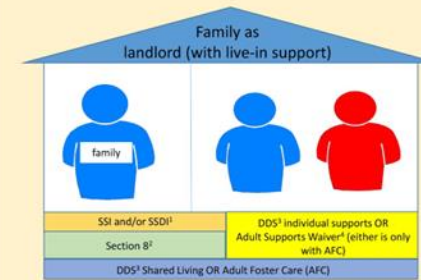
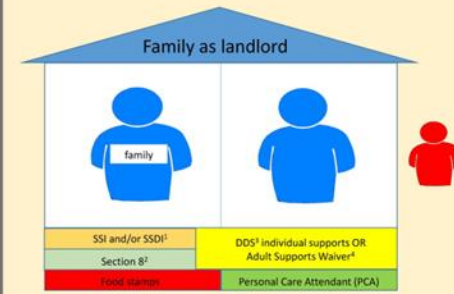
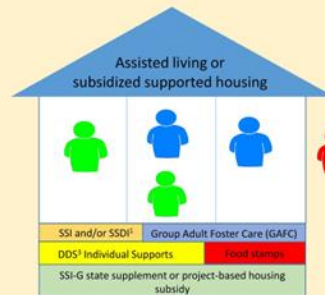
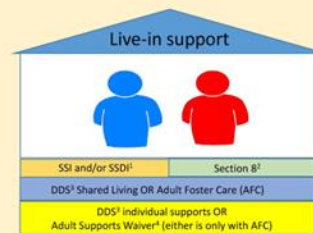
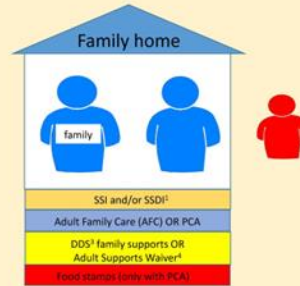
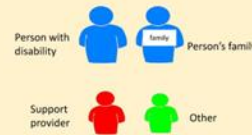
Private  
resources

Private  
resources

SSI, SSDI, DDS, and DMH can be used for housing, food, and supportive services. Other funding sources can ONLY be used for the column they appear under.

# Mass. living arrangements for persons with developmental disabilities

(Showing potential funding streams)



<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)  
<sup>2</sup> May also use some other type of housing voucher, such as a voucher from the Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) or the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)  
<sup>3</sup> Department of Developmental Services  
<sup>4</sup> May also be Community Living Waiver, but not combined with AFC or PCA

<https://autismhousingpathways.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/infographic2gray.pdf>

# Typology of possible housing models

The family as landlord	The family as landlord (with live-in support)	Live-in support	Group home	Assisted living or subsidized supported housing	Community
				Individual apartments	Individual apartments
	Shared Living	Shared Living			
Co-housing	Co-housing	Co-housing			Co-housing
				Inclusive, small footprint units	Inclusive, small footprint units
				Transitional housing	Transitional housing
			Licensed congregate		
			Intensive medical/behavioral supports		
					Cass Housing
Small, legal multi-unit	Small, legal multi-unit	Small, legal multi-unit			
			Intergenerational (co-located with senior apts.)	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
Rural	Rural	Rural	Rural		
Autism-friendly design	Autism-friendly design	Autism-friendly design	Autism-friendly design	Autism-friendly design	Autism-friendly design
Smart home	Smart home	Smart home	Smart home	Smart home	Smart home
				Large inclusive multi-unit housing	Large inclusive multi-unit housing

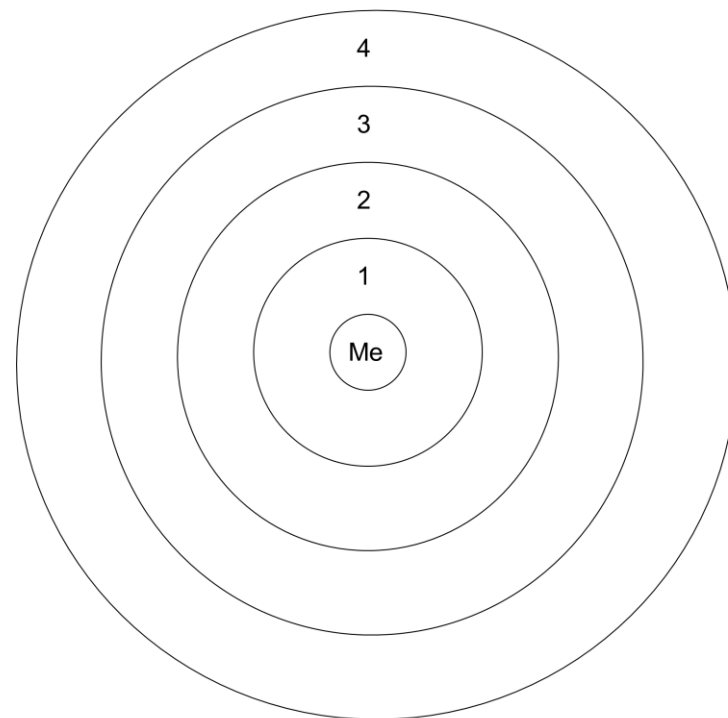
**Key:**

Gray (selected by think tank)

Green (added since think tank)

Yellow (considered by think tank)

## Circles of support

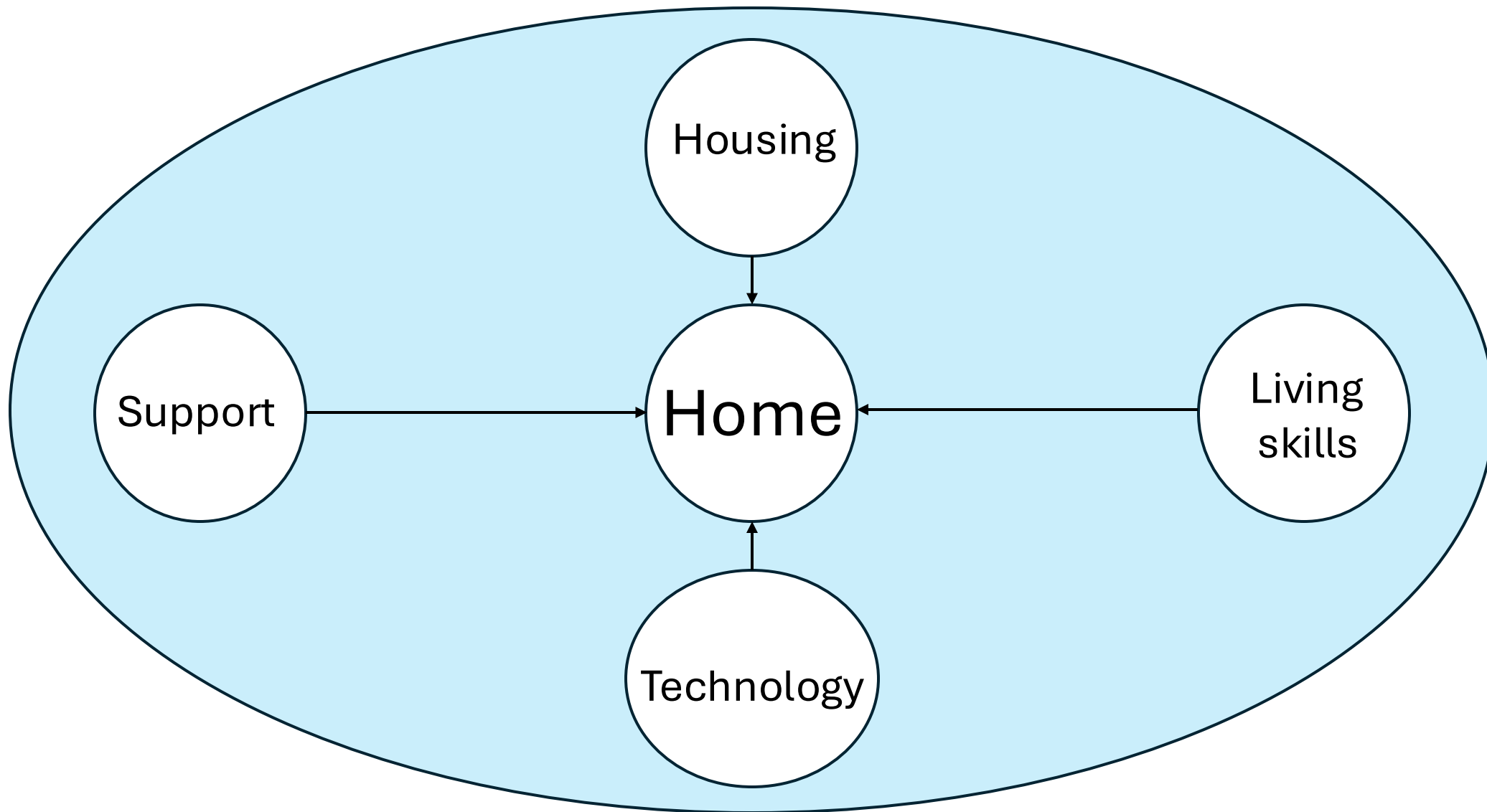


1. Circle of intimacy
2. Circle of friendship
3. Circle of participation
4. Circle of exchange

(Adopted from O'Brien, et al., [The PATH & MAPS Handbook: Person-Centered Ways to Build Community](#), Inclusion Press, 2012.)

A good, free handbook on cultivating Circles of Support is at <https://tinyurl.com/y3pz9626>.

# Choice



# ROADMAP TO HOUSING

5- to 10-year timeline

## APPLY FOR BENEFITS

Apply for supportive services and cash benefits that can be used now.  
(Ages 18-22)

## MOVE IN

Execute your housing plan: move in, generalize skills and support systems to the new setting, add any additional services appropriate to the new setting.

## GET ON LISTS

Get on appropriate housing waiting lists.  
(Ages 18-22)

## ASSESS SKILLS & SUPPORTS

Identify skills your family member has or can acquire, as well as those they will need help with or will need to have done for them. (As early as possible)

## BUILD SKILLS

Develop daily living skills and USE them. Develop and implement systems to handle skills your family member will need help with or have done for them. (While you are waiting for housing)



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