

From: Matthew Dietz [<mailto:MatthewDietz@usdisabilitylaw.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 08, 2013 2:33 PM
To: Jean Salmonsens
Cc: Vicki.D.Johnson@hud.gov; Keenya Robertson
Subject: FW: Grant Funding for Housing for Persons with Developmental Disabilities

Ms. Salmonsens –

I will not be able to attend the workshop because I will be in Tallahassee in a mediation with the State of Florida regarding the unnecessary institutionalization of children in nursing homes with developmental and other disabilities under the *Olmstead* decision. Because of the failure to have adequate integrated housing for these children and their parents, many of these kids were left in geriatric nursing homes. As such, I do have a very strong position against the government providing funding for any segregated group homes. In that regard, specifying funding for group homes for persons with disabilities does not affirmatively further fair housing, and it promotes isolation of persons with disabilities. In June of this year, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development issued guidance regarding the duties of housing providers to encourage integration of persons with disabilities pursuant to *Olmstead*, and here is a link to the guidance. <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=OlmsteadGuidnc060413.pdf>. Instead of institutionalizing persons with developmental disabilities in group homes, programs and services should be made available in regular housing environments.

By limiting funds to those providers that only serve six or less persons in a segregated setting, the state may be violating the Fair Housing Act, and most certainly does not affirmatively further the interests of the Act. Other developers of large developments will have standing under the Fair Housing Act to request funding to develop programs which provide services to persons with disabilities in order to integrate such persons into housing. I would urge the FHFC to not set arbitrary limitations on the recipients of such funds, but instead, to incentivise developers to create programs to assist persons with developmental disabilities to transition into housing for all.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to speak with you regarding this matter.

Matthew W. Dietz
Law Offices of Matthew W. Dietz, P.L.
2990 Southwest 35th Avenue
Miami, FL 33133
Tel: (305) 669-2822
Fax: (305) 442-4181
TTY: (786) 621-5647
e-mail: matthewdietz@usdisabilitylaw.com
web: www.usdisabilitylaw.com