

Supported Living – The Difference

In 1993 John O'Brien wrote, "Supported living is a simple concept in danger of being complicated until its power to help people with developmental disabilities gets lost.

Its simplicity is elegant.

A person with a disability who requires long term, publicly funded, organized assistance allies with an agency whose role is to arrange or provide whatever assistance is necessary for the person to live in a decent and secure home of the person's own."

Historically, long-term services and supports have been "attached" to properties owned or leased by the agencies that provide the services and supports. In the supported living model, the home must be owned or leased by the person with a disability. The services and supports are not "attached" to the residence in any way. The person with disabilities has full property rights whether the home is owned or leased and may choose to change the agency that provides the services as desired.

North Carolina is committed to increasing the number of people with disabilities that manage their long-term services and support needs in their own homes. The [NC Innovations Waiver](#) offers a service that adheres to this simple concept. The details of this service are available at [A Guide to Supported Living Concepts and NC Innovations' Supported Living Service Definition](#).