

**Suggested Autism Community Responses for the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC)  
Citizen Survey on Local Housing Needs in Bloomington-Normal ([www.mcplan.org](http://www.mcplan.org))**

It is important that individuals with autism and other disabilities be represented in this survey, as it will impact future community planning and funding decisions. We invite people with autism, their families, care-givers and friends to add your comments and suggestions about autism needs as you complete the MCRPC survey.

**IMPORTANT:** Since there is only one reference to disability services in the survey, we strongly encourage respondents to include autism housing and support needs in the "comments sections" of the survey. Below are some suggested responses.

**Please put your responses in your own words, especially any specifics that reflect your needs.**

**Survey Question:** Please explain the challenges you have faced in finding safe, sanitary and affordable housing in your community.

1. There is a growing need for people on the autism spectrum to have housing available that meets their needs. This includes access to services for those able to live independently and specialized services for those who need 24-hour care. The community could truly be innovative and establish a small community where parents and care-givers could live in close proximity to their loved ones in either group or individual situations.
2. Individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism) who need support have limited to no options available to them. They need varying levels of support, access to services, in-home accommodations. Many individuals have limited income, so safe, affordable housing is greatly needed.

**Survey Question:** What type of public facilities or activities would you like to see added or expanded in your community?

Check "other" and write in a response such as:

1. Housing for people on the autism spectrum.
2. Facilities and activities that are supportive of individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism). This could include varying levels of support, in-home accommodations, and volunteers who understand their needs when participating in activities.

**Survey Question:** What type of public services would you like to see added or expanded in your community? Select all that apply.

1. Bus services; disability services; job training; mental health services. Also click "other," adding "autism directed services."
2. 24-hour support hotline for people with autism (especially those on their own) with connections to resources and services.
3. Supports for individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism), including bus services, job supports, supportive living facilities, and awareness activities.

**Survey Question:** What type of assistance will help expand job and economic opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents in your community?

1. Job training and efforts with employers to open positions for people on the autism spectrum and advocacy from local government and agencies to facilitate those placements.
2. Assistance to individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism) who are under-employed or unemployed more than their non-disabled peers. This could include job matching, part-time employment specific to their needs, development of peer job-coaches and work hours that take into account reliance upon public transportation.

**Survey Question:** Do you believe housing discrimination exists in your community? Explain.

1. Yes, there is little to no available and appropriate housing for people on the autism spectrum.
2. Yes, necessary supports and services are limited or non-existent for individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism).

**Survey Question:** Any Additional Comments

1. With the growth in autism diagnoses, a concerted effort is needed to build an Autism Friendly Community that is caring, open and accessible to all.
2. The community needs to consider the needs of individuals with disabilities (specifically those with autism) and budget monies to accommodate their needs. This would assist greatly in helping them to be more self-sufficient, tax-contributing citizens.