

A Partnership: Disability Support and Housing

Lindsay Northup-Moore
Director, Disability Support, ASAC

Chris Silva
Director of Housing, Housing & Residence Life

Nicole Nowinski
Associate Director, Disability Support

Schuyler Asman
Associate Director, Residential Facilities, HRL



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- Demographics of American University (AU)
- Requesting Housing Accommodations at AU
- Disability and Housing as a Partnership
- COVID-19
- Wrap-Up and Q&A



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Demographics of American University

- Private Research University in Washington, DC
- Approximately 7,500 Undergraduates; 7,000 postgraduates (including law school)
- 1000+ students registered with the ASAC
- Undergraduate housing only
- Housing options range from traditional doubles, singles, suite, and apartment-style
- Communal, private, and semi-private restroom options

Requesting Housing Accommodations

- Three-step registration process
- Documentation requirements
- Align deadlines with HRL

Building a Partnership

- Partner with HRL to consider reasonability of requests
- Knowledge of housing inventory
 - Tours of spaces for ASAC Staff
- Placement meetings
- Sharing of information
 - Access to housing software improves efficiency and reduces the wait time

It's a Two-Way Relationship

- A valued partnership with disability services
- Intentionality with access
- Planned renovations for now and the future
- Tracking trends
- Creating systems & using data together
- Developing training programs

How to Get Housing Buy-In

- Start a conversation
 - What's worked? What hasn't worked?
- Identify common goals
 - Focus on the student experience towards graduation
- Have examples from peer institutions
 - This can take the pressure of blame away
- Look at the now and the future
 - What are the immediate needs and what can we look at for next year?
- Establish a cycle of review meetings to get ahead of the next year's process planning
- Opportunities for training and learning

Accommodation Collaboration Examples

- Physical Access—Retrofit
- Residence Hall Food Allergy
- Tortoise ESA

COVID-19

- Fall 2020
 - Aligned deadlines and communications
 - First year students are priority; limited spaces for others
 - Placed students with previously approved accommodations
 - Considering new requests
 - Ensuring equitability
 - Bandwidth for responding to risk
- How did we get to this decision?

COVID-19 Implications

- Accessibility and health/safety concerns for Fall 2020
- Future semesters
 - Spring 2021
 - Fall 2021
- Increase in future accommodation requests

Next Steps to Consider

- Connect with housing partners on your campus
- Establish (everchanging) shared plan for accommodations for Fall 2020
- Maintain communication channels
 - Students
 - Campus partners
- Creating shared processes

Questions?

Thank you for attending our session!

Our contact information:

Lindsay Northup-Moore lnorthup@american.edu

Chris Silva csilva@american.edu

Nicole Nowinski nowinski@american.edu

Schuyler Asman [schuyler@amreican.edu](mailto:schuyler@american.edu)