

Group conducting disabilities housing study

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HOLLAND — Disability Network of the Lakeshore is applying grants from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council and the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation to fund a one-year study of the housing needs for local residents with disabilities.

Traditional research utilizes an independent consultant — typically with no practical knowledge of the topic — to collect, analyze and report findings, Disability Network officials say.

"Our approach differs in that an action team of stakeholders is directly responsible for designing and disseminating the survey," said Stacey Trowbridge, project manager with Disability Network. "This is a diverse team — representative of business, nonprofit, government, individuals with disabilities and parents. The stakeholder team also represents varying geographical locations, ethnicities, services and customer bases."

Sandra Keirnan, the housing specialist for Disability Network, said the action team will develop recommendations based on the study's findings and communicate recommendations to the community through a formal report at the end of the year.

An online version of the survey will be disseminated to organizations in February.

On the Net:

www.dnlakeshore.org

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