



National Participant Network (NPN)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES RELATED TO HOME AND COMMUNITY

Home-Structure

- ◆ The NPN believes that a participant's home is located at his/her place of choice.
- ◆ The NPN believes that persons with disabilities have the right to live in safely built homes that comply with state regulations.
- ◆ The NPN believes that it is ideal when a home is built with universal design to enable accessibility/visitability, whether the family living in the home includes someone with disability or not.

Home-Perception

- ◆ The NPN believes that the home is where the participant has choice and feels in control over who may enter.
- ◆ The NPN believes that anyone can make the choice to live in his/her own home, given adequate support, following the confines of law as all residents do.

Community-Structure

- ◆ The NPN believes that it is ideal that the community be designed with accessible features, in order to enable all residents to have accessibility throughout the town. To be a community, everyone must have the opportunity to move around and be able to visit with each other.
- ◆ The NPN believes that community is a traditional neighborhood, not defined by someone's specific needs or disabilities. It is not designed around a certain homogenous group, unless chosen to be so by the participant, and not mandated by someone else.
- ◆ The NPN believes that community is one in which a participant has equal access to all typical public services, facilities and employment opportunities as all other residents do.

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Community-Perception

- ◆ The NPN believes that the community is not necessarily a physical place, but the qualities of the place define community.
- ◆ The NPN believes that a healthy community incorporates the principles of participant direction.
- ◆ The NPN believes that the community is a place where residents respect each other's choices, are tolerant of each other's views, where each person feels accepted, feels safe, feels included and has the opportunity to live without fear of judgment.
- ◆ The NPN believes that a community is where the participant feels welcomed by neighbors, that there is a mindset of acceptance and the atmosphere to support personal growth if the individual desires it.