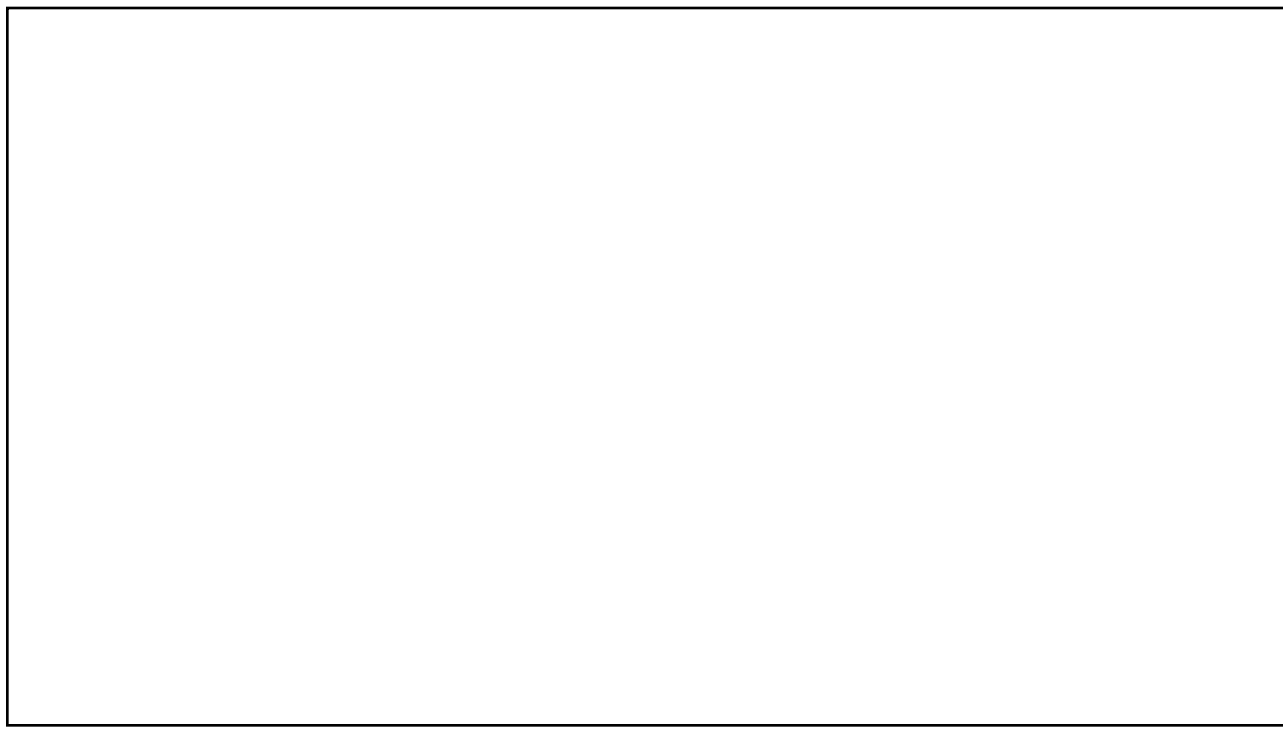
 **Focus Groups Findings** 

Findings from two focus groups consisting of parents and guardians of individuals on Autism Spectrum about autism and housing needs –  
Conducted April 2020 by ISU Stevenson Center graduate students

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## Focus Group Discussions

Focus groups consisted of two groups of parents (nine total) whose children are adults with ASD aged 22 and older. The following are housing-based priorities that participants provided:

- Access to **safe, reliable transportation** near housing
- Ensuring that **medical, safety, and other concerns are ameliorated**
- **Individualized living settings** which accommodate for everyone's cognitive, sensory, and social needs
- A desire for **housing intended solely for individuals with ASD**
- **Programs that facilitate and cultivate problem solving skills** for adults with ASD

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## Focus Group Discussions, continued

- Lack of opportunities for adults with ASD to interact in a **safe social environment**
- The **burden of discovering, accessing and securing** autism-friendly housing tends to fall upon individuals with ASD and their families in McLean County
- **Funding sources** fluctuate depending on a myriad of local, state and federal laws, waivers, and wait-lists
- Individuals with ASD face challenges that are **unique** to their own lived experience; accommodations must be in accordance with that individual's *specific* housing needs
- **Lack of comprehensive, strategic planning** amongst state government, service providers, and families of persons with ASD leads to confusion

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