

Desiree Kameka serves as Director of the Autism Housing Networks for the [Madison House Autism Foundation](#) (MHAF). She developed and spearheads three national housing initiatives: 1) [Autism Housing Network](#), an online platform to bring together the best ideas in housing for autistic adults and others with developmental disabilities; 2) [Coalition for Community Choice](#), bringing together thousands of stakeholders and self-advocates to be part of the conversation and inform policymakers about the importance of choice and true self-determination; and 3) Empowering Communities Initiative in which she provides consultations and guides visioning workshops for individuals and groups seeking to develop their own locally based supportive housing projects.

Ms. Kameka's passion is empowering autistic adults and parents to create a future that is exciting and life affirming. She leads national advocacy efforts on issues of autism in adulthood, is regularly called to testify on national policy issues, and has positively influenced neuro-diverse legislation at national and state levels. Having spent more than a decade researching the barriers and identifying unique opportunities to increase housing and choice for adults with I/DDs, Ms. Kameka has helped to guide more than 300 supportive housing projects in hundreds of communities. She has visited more than 100 residential settings and social enterprises across the USA and shares their unique victories and learning curves, so that families and teams may be inspired by and can learn from successful housing projects.

A recognized disability housing expert and keynote speaker in conferences across the country, Ms. Kameka is cited in media outlets such as [The Atlantic](#), [Rolling Stone Magazine](#), [NPR](#), [Psychology Today](#), [ABC News](#) and others. In addition, Desiree's work in housing is included among international academics and professionals who are actively researching and working in the field in the pioneering scholarly volume *Autism Spectrum Disorder in Mid and Later Life*, which covers the issues faced by individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). She has been invited to speak on panels at the UBS Global Autism Innovation Roundtable, Great Minds Coming Together on Autism International Conference, the United Nations World Autism Awareness Day, and at the National Institute of Health (NIH) to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) on Autism After 21 and as part of the IACC Housing Taskforce.