

Overview of multi-unit environmental housing in the United States and Canada

There are several housing projects in the United States and one in Canada that cater to people with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). A couple also accommodate people with electrical hypersensitivity (EHS).

Keywords: MCS, chemical sensitivity, electrical sensitivity, housing, apartment, rental, intentional community, community, USA

Introduction

People disabled with environmental sensitivities (chemical sensitivities, electrical sensitivities) often face a housing crisis. They are unable to live in regular housing and healthy housing is scarce and expensive. People on disability can rarely afford to buy such a home.

Several multi-unit housing projects have been created in the United States over the years, to provide short-term and long-term housing. The earliest started in the 1980s. Several have since closed again for various reasons.

Some projects are in the cities, some are in rural areas. Some are apartments or houses with all amenities, while some are more basic camps.

The cost of renting or buying varies dramatically. Two of the projects are government subsidized for people on a low income.

An extra benefit of living in these places is the opportunity for having a social life with people who are safe to be around and understand what it means to have the illness. Two of the developments have turned into intentional communities with long-term residents who own their homes.

Only two developments (Rockin R Ranch and Regina Caelis Cottages) were specifically designed to be low-EMF for people with electrical sensitivities. A few others have minor modifications or features that reduce electronic radiation.

Some of the unit numbers are approximate. Ecology Housing had about twenty-five units (huts and trailers) in the 1990s, which made it the largest.

Several private residences have “granny flats” attached to them for rent. These are not included on this list.

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Name/Town	Units	Rental	Private Own	Rural	Camp	Detached	Status	Purpose Built	Comments
Arizona Hansa Trail <i>Snowflake</i>	14+	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Rural neighborhood on large lots
Rockin R Ranch <i>Snowflake</i>	4	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	State funded, low income only
Rosemary's <i>Chino Valley</i>	4	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Closed	Yes	Steel huts and trailers
California Ecology House <i>San Rafael</i>	11	Yes						Yes	HUD funded, low-income only
The Last Resort <i>Potrero</i>	6	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Closed	?	Cottages and trailers
Florida South Beach Island <i>Melbourne</i>	8	Yes	Yes						Converted beachfront motel (formerly Pride and Joy)
The Natural Place <i>Deerfield Beach</i>	5	Yes							Converted motel(?)
New Mexico The Commons on the Alameda <i>Santa Fe</i>	4		Yes						Mixed with non-MCS townhouses
Pat Shirley's <i>Questa</i>	4	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Closed		Trailer sites and one hut

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Ontario Barrhaven <i>Ottawa</i>	7	Yes						?	Non-Profit
Texas Dr. Rea – Courtyard <i>Dallas</i>	23	Yes					Closed		Converted hotel suites
Dr. Rea – Meadow <i>Dallas</i>	18	Yes					Closed		Converted condos
Ecology Housing <i>Seagoville/Dallas</i>	10	Yes		Yes	Yes	Mixed		Yes	Steel huts
Lake Tawakoni <i>Point / Dallas</i>	3	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Closed	N/A	Trailer sites only
Raintree <i>Dallas</i>	12	Yes					Closed		Converted apartments
Regina Caelis (Earl’s) <i>Dallas</i>	18	Yes	Yes						Converted condos
Regina Caelis Cottages <i>Ennis/Dallas</i>	10	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Custom built cottages
Sprague House <i>Garland/Dallas</i>	5	Yes					Closed		Villa converted to rooming house

More information

Several of these housing projects are described in detailed articles available through www.eiwellspring.org/multiunit.html. See also www.eiwellspring.org/arizonalocal.html about environmental communities.

If you wish to rent or visit these communities, contact them directly. Do NOT contact this website.

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