

# **NASET's HOW TO Series**

**March 2016**

## **Evaluating Residential Programs**

There is no substitute for firsthand observation. When you and the parents have organized your list of potential residential programs, the parents (and you, if possible) should make appointments to visit each one. Do not hesitate to ask the following questions:

- What are the entry requirements?
- How many people live at the particular residence?
- Is there a waiting list?
- How long is the waiting list?
- What is the staffing pattern?
- What other services are provided at this residence?
- What are the expectations for activities outside the residence?
- Can the resident go to a day program?
- Can the resident have a part-time or weekend job?
- What will the costs be for the specific services provided by this residence?
- How is the personal money of the resident monitored?
- Are family visits encouraged?
- What kinds of household chores will the resident be responsible for?
- Are leisure activities part of the resident's program?