

Shared Living Information

What is Shared Living?

Shared Living is a service delivery option for the Residential Habilitation service. Residential Habilitation services teach you skills to help you live independently and access your community.

This service is offered on the Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver. It is not available on the DD Adult Day Waiver; so, if you receive that waiver upon leaving high school at age 21, Shared Living is not available to you.

Shared Living takes place in a private home by a person, couple, or family that is known to you. You have chosen to share a life with this person by sharing a home. This person is called a Shared Living Provider. You may hear them be called an SLP.

In Shared Living, you and the SLP live together in the same home, and you share daily life with them. Residential Habilitation is a 24-hour residential service. You may not need your SLP with you 24/7; your team will discuss your needs. Your SLP is expected to be available whenever you need them.

Besides sharing life together, your SLP is not expected to take care of you. Your SLP is expected to teach you skills for living independently and to do things in your community. What this means is if you don't know how to do something, your SLP will teach you. They might teach you to cook, do your own laundry, shop for needed items, or take care of yourself or your home. All this teaching is to prepare you to be able to live on your own.

Who can be a Shared Living Provider?

Anyone that you choose and approve can be your SLP. For example, your brothers or sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and friends can become your SLP. However, your SLP cannot be your legal guardian. Your SLP can and should be an important person in your life, but they are not allowed to make decisions for you.

How can someone become my Shared Living Provider?

After choosing someone to be your SLP there are a few things they will need to do.

First, you and your SLP will need to find a developmental disability agency provider with which you want to have a Shared Living contract. Only agency providers can offer Residential Habilitation services, including Shared Living. The agency provider gives your SLP training and oversight. Once you choose an agency provider, your SLP will need to apply to that agency provider and complete any paperwork or training the agency requires.

Your Developmental Disability Service Coordinator will walk through your SLP's home to check for safety concerns and ensure you have necessary things, like your own bedroom with a door that locks. After these steps are completed, you are ready to set a date to move in.