

What is Shared Living?

Shared Living is where a person or family shares their home and life with YOU!!

Shared Living is a wonderful opportunity to live in an environment you may have always wanted! Whether you live with a single person or a family, it would be your choice! You could determine your future and what you are looking for.

Will I have my own bedroom?

YES!

Will I get to go to places I enjoy?

YES

How do I get into Shared Living?

- First, you have to make sure you want to share your life with others!
- Second, you need to talk to your Service Coordinator and the important people in your life to let them know this is something you are interested in.
- Third, you need to notify your Social Worker at BHDDH and let them know you would like to explore this option!
- Forth, identify what is important to you so you can ask questions and share this with the providers you are introduced to. You want to make sure it is a match!
- Fifth, Meet providers! Identify a potential match and establish a relationship! Get to know each other, spend time together....a lot of time together!

How long does the process take?

The process could take anywhere from 3 to 6 months....It is most important to ensure that you have an established a relationship and that everyone is certain this is a great match!! Once you have reached a point that you all are ready to make a commitment, the paperwork process and approval can take up to 45 days before it is final and you are able to officially move in.

What do you mean by establish a relationship?

It is important for you to spend time with the potential provider to make sure you truly get to know each other. Typically home visits and or spending time together out on an activity should occur once a week and then increased to several times a week. If the visits continue to go great, there should be some overnight visits and weekend visits before making a final decision! Again making sure this is a match for you is very important to you and to us!!

What are my responsibilities/expectations?

You are responsible to ensure you continue to lead an independent life! You are also responsible to treat your provider and any other family members of the household with dignity and respect.

In Shared Living our hope is for each individual to continue to grow as a person and continue to learn new skills and build independence.

Do you need to keep yourself safe and take care of your health?

YES! - taking care of your health includes making sure you are attending medical appointments, taking your medication and taking care of your personal Hygiene....we want you to be Healthy! Safety - responding to fire alarms, if cooking ensuring you are cooking safely...ask for help if you need it! Ensuring your room is free from papers and debris to ensure easy exiting in an emergency!

Do you need to clean your room and pick up your belongings in home?

YES - This is about independence!

Do you need to do your own laundry?

YES! If you need assistance, ASK but you are still responsible to make the effort and try your hardest!

Do you need to help with some agreed upon household chores?

YES - You and the Shared Living Provider should establish ways you can help each other and help around the home you live!

Do you need to be respectful and communicate with the family your concerns?

YES - Communication is very important! Talk problems/concern out appropriately!

Do you need to go to work or somewhere during the day?

Unless you are of retirement age....YES!!! It is important to stay active! Whether it is working or volunteering somewhere you should be continuing to build your independence with your Shared Living Provider. Everyone should be involved in a program of some nature and should be active and busy during the day!

What are the Shared Living Provider's responsibilities?

The providers responsibilities are to ensure you are safe, that they treat you with dignity and respect, promote independence and assist you in areas you may need help in but not do tasks for you!

A provider is responsible to ensure you have a choice of healthy meals and snacks, assistance with medical appointments and getting your medications and passing them if you need assistance.

Another responsibility is for a provider to ensure you have transportation to your day program or transportation to an activity or outing that has been scheduled and planned!

A provider should be a mentor to you and assist you with growing your independence and skills in your home such as cooking, budgeting, and other life skills that may be identified. The Contractor will also provide support and mentorship to help you work towards success with your goals identified from your annual planning meeting.