



Shared Living fact sheet

Program Description

Shared Living is a new option available for adults who cannot live alone and require a considerable amount of help with the activities of daily living, such as eating, dressing, and personal hygiene, etc. Shared Living provides an alternative to institutional care for those that meet clinical, financial and other program criteria. Shared Living is a consumer-directed service designed to maximize the control and choice a person has over the services that are provided.

Eligibility

This service is available for Rhode Island seniors and adults with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid Long Term Care (LTC) and are unable to live independently. To be eligible for Medicaid LTC, a person has to be determined financially eligible and must also meet certain clinical Level of Care criteria (highest or high).

How it Works

Shared Living provides a home-like setting for individuals who cannot live alone but who want to continue to live in the community as long as possible. There are two components to understanding Shared Living: (1) the Shared Living agency and (2) the caregiver and the host home.

- **Shared Living Agency**

The Shared Living Agency helps the person who needs care to find an appropriate host home/ caregiver. This may be someone the person already knows, like a relative, neighbor or friend. The Shared Living Agency will “match” a client with a caregiver and will make sure the caregiver receives all needed training and support.

The Shared Living Agency will:

- Oversee and monitor services;
- Ensure the safety of the host home;
- Provide training for the caregiver;
- Provide nursing services as needed, and
- Develop an individualized *Shared Living Service and Safety Plan*.

- **The Caregiver /Host Home**

Typically, the caregiver lives in their own home and agrees to have the person needing care live with them. In some situations, the caregiver may agree to move into the care recipient’s home. The Caregiver is responsible for:

- Personal care, including assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Homemaker services
- Chore services
- Meals
- Transportation
- Being on call 24/7
- Providing socialization and a home-like environment

Benefits for the Caregiver include:

- A stipend for providing 24/7 care
- Respite or time off from full-time care

Medicaid pays the Shared Living agency for its role and provides funding for caregiver stipends. However, Medicaid does not pay for room and board. Room and board is typically paid from the client's SSI and/or Social Security check. Also, the client (recipient of care) may incur a "cost share" for the services (not including room and board), depending on their income.

Other Considerations

- **Spouses** or legally liable persons cannot serve as the paid caregiver.
- **Adult Day Care** - A person is still eligible to attend Adult Day Care. If that is the case, the caregiver's stipend will be reduced for days when a person attends Adult Day Care. This gives the caregiver an opportunity for employment or pursuing other interests.
- **Issues to be considered when matching a person to a caregiver:**
 - Geographic location
 - Pets
 - Children in the home
 - Lifestyle preferences, schedules, etc.
- **In addition to the information on this fact sheet, Shared Living services are appropriate for:**
 - A person who is not a danger to themselves or others in the shared home.
 - A person who is capable, with direction, of taking action for self-preservation in case of a fire.
 - An individual assessment will be done at the time of application. Both the caregiver and the recipient must be informed of and willing to assume a certain amount of risk regarding safety inherent in this type of living arrangement.
 - A person must be free from communicable disease or infectious conditions in order to participate in Shared Living.
- **Tax Considerations**
The Caregiver's stipend is tax-free to the Caregiver when the care recipient lives in the Caregiver's home.

For More Information

Two agencies have been approved to provide shared living services to eligible elders and adults with disabilities:

Caregiver Homes of Rhode Island

Contact: Janice Masi at (866) 797-6222 or jmasi@caregiverhomes.com
235 Promenade St., Suite 417, Providence, RI 02908
www.caregiverhomes.com

The Homestead Group

Contact: Jane Korb, Program Director, (401) 765-3700 ext. 293 jkorb@sevenhills-thgri.org
80 Fabien St., Woonsocket, RI 02895

Shared Living is one of the services available to clients who are eligible for Medicaid Long Term Care. For more information on other services, please go to the DHS website at www.dhs.ri.gov under Elders>Long Term Care or Adults with Disabilities>Long Term Care.