



FactSheet

Lifesharing through Family Living

DHS Office of Intellectual Disability

What is Lifesharing?

Lifesharing means living with and sharing life experiences with supportive persons who form a caring household. It is an opportunity for someone with intellectual disability to share a home with a family or person to whom you are not related. The person opening their home to you is your Lifesharing Provider.

Who can participate in Lifesharing?

Any person who is looking for a community placement, whether or not they are already in another residential choice. You should talk to your Supports Coordinator (SC) if you are interested in participating.

How many people can receive Lifesharing services in one home?

One or two people receiving care in a single home.

How will I be matched with a Lifesharing Provider ?

The ISP (Individual Support Plan) team will work closely with Lifesharing provider agencies in selecting a home. You will meet the household on several occasions, tour the home and be given plenty of time to ask questions. Your needs and preferences will drive the matching process. You must feel comfortable in your home and be assured that it meets your requirements. You and the Lifesharing Provider must feel comfortable before a match is final.

What are the benefits of Lifesharing?

- Receiving consistent individualized attention and support
- Developing trusting and caring relationships
- Being a contributing member of a family

What else does a Lifesharing Provider do?

- Provide a safe, nurturing, and healthy environment in which you have choice
- Follow all regulations of their provider agency as well as the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) and PA Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)
- Assist you in all the ways of a more traditional community living arrangement

What are some qualifications and best practices of a Lifesharing Provider?

- Family dynamics and building relationships
- Have time to support a Lifesharing relationship
- Have the space to support a Lifesharing participant
- Have the ability to support the Lifesharing participant's needs
- Complete thorough training including:
 - First Aid and Heimlich techniques
 - CPR, if medically necessary
 - Individual Support Plans (ISP) and putting them into practice

Note: A criminal background check and child abuse clearances are required for any licensed waiver funded services.

Who oversees and supports the Lifesharing Provider?

Lifesharing Providers are overseen and supported by a provider agency, the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability (OID) and the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs.

How is the Lifesharing option paid for?

Lifesharing is typically funded through the Consolidated Waiver.

Where can I find more information on Lifesharing?

- Ask your Supports Coordinator
- Contact OID at 412-253-1399 and ask for the Lifesharing Lead
- Refer to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) website www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Engagement/Lifesharing.aspx
- Or visit this website: www.odpconsulting.net/topic-info/lifesharing-everyday-living-options/

Bulletin information

For additional information on Lifesharing from the PA Office of Developmental Programs, please refer to the following bulletins on the PA Department of Human Services website.

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