



Shared Living Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs homes and why?

Individuals needing homes have developmental disabilities. They usually need help with activities of daily living, obtaining medical care and accessing the community. When family are no longer able to care for a person with disabilities, and living in a home environment benefits them the most. The great thing about Shared Living is that the individual can still live in a family setting while learning skills to increase their independence.

What do I need to know to be a Shared Living provider?

Experience as a caregiver is a plus and we meet many providers who have worked as nursing professionals, teachers, and foster care parents, but having worked professionally is not a requirement. Many Shared Living Providers have raised their own children and now have an extra room and the desire to help others. People who are patient, flexible willing to share and willing to learn are needed most. Shared Living providers receive training and have available to them a team of others to help support the individual they care for.

Who else supports the individual?

All clients have a case manager who has regular contact with the Shared Living provider. In addition, an individual may have Community Supports, spending time in the community and if employed, an employment support person to help them with their job. All individuals have medical providers for their primary care, dental care and other needs. We also have a full time nurse who is available for medical consultation. The majority of individuals in Shared Living also have a legal guardian who helps the person make important decisions. All of these people will work together with you to provide the best quality of life for the individual.

Are Shared living providers paid?

Yes. Shared Living providers are paid a tax free payment on a monthly basis. In addition, monthly room and board is paid. Shared Living providers are contractors and not employees, so do not receive any benefits from UCS. Respite hours are also budgeted to allow for providers to have necessary breaks. When you become a Shared Living Provider, you become the Employer of respite and can hire people who you know will give the individual quality care and understanding. UCS works with ARIS Solutions to manage respite budgets and respite staff.