

# What you need to know

## about being a shared home living provider.

### **Q: Am I eligible to be a Home Provider?**

A: The requirements for being a Home Provider are simple: You must be at least 18 years old, satisfy the CORI, finger print, and driving record screens, own or rent a home in Massachusetts, and have an extra bedroom. No previous experience with the disability population is required, but you must be willing to complete the trainings required to provide safe and high quality support. There are a range of qualities that make a person fit to be a great Home Provider including experience in human services, teaching or direct care, as well as skills in organization and time management. If you have an open heart and mind and are enthusiastic about supporting the wants and needs of a person with a disability in your home and in the community, this may be the opportunity for you!

### **Q: How long does the match process take?**

A: There is no specific timeline. Once your background checks are completed (typically in 1-2 weeks) we can begin your training and start seeking individuals who are interested in a Shared Living arrangement. Finding the right match (based on personality, level of need, likes/dislikes) may take time! But more consideration and investment up front will create the greater possibility for a long-term and fulfilling Shared Living experience.

### **Q: How long is the commitment?**

A: Our hope is that we facilitate a match that can last a lifetime. As a model, one of the most appealing things about Shared Living is consistency in support and relationships. Shared Living should be a commitment of at least 2 years, and ideally more.

### **Q: What if my home/apartment has stairs?**

A: If you do not have an accessible home this does not disqualify you from being a Home Provider. It just means we would tailor the match to your specific situation (in this case, not ideal for someone who uses a wheelchair).

### **Q: Are there other requirements for my home?**

A: Our biggest priority is safety. Triangle has a home checklist that we go over with each prospective Home Provider. Triangle is also able to provide first aid kits and fire extinguishers, as well as advice on how to make your home a better fit for the individual.

**Q: Can I work outside the home and be a Home Provider?**

A: Yes. Many individuals attend a day program and may be eligible for home alone waivers up to a few hours. You may have another adult member of the home willing to provide supports while you are at work. However, it is important to be flexible when approaching this Home Provider commitment. Our main priority is safety and support for the individual.

**Q: How does compensation work?**

A: A tax-free stipend is given monthly to the Home Provider and is on a case-by-case basis. The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services has a tiered system based on level of need. An individual who needs the least amount of support from the Home Provider will be in the lower compensation tier, while an individual who needs much more support with daily tasks will be in the higher compensation tier.

**Q: Do I get time off?**

A: Yes. The contract is sensitive to the belief that time away is healthy for both the provider and the individual. Home providers are given respite throughout the year, during which time a relief staff will be available to provide support to the individual. It is encouraged that you incorporate the individual into your community and life as much as possible, which would include vacations together.

**Q: As a Home Provider, if I have questions or need assistance, who do I contact?**

A: Triangle's Shared Living Team is more than happy to help. We will have a 24/7 emergency line for you to contact if need be. Our Shared Living team will assign a case manager to each individual and will provide managerial and administrative support for you and the individual in your home. You will also have access to a nurse, behaviorist, service coordinator, as well as input from the individual's friends and family members.

## Need more information?

For more details about Shared Living and becoming a Home Provider, please contact Gamelin Bernier.

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To apply, visit <https://triangle-inc.org/SharedLiving>

