

Residential Services: Home Sharing

Community Living BC (CLBC) provides supports and services to eligible adults* and their families. CLBC funds a variety of residential services. Home sharing is a residential support service that many eligible adults and their families choose. CLBC has a range of policies, guidelines, and standards for home sharing. This information sheet answers some common questions families have about home sharing.

What is home sharing?

Home sharing is a type of CLBC funded residential service that supports adults to live as fully and independently as possible in the community.

In home sharing, an individual (an adult who is eligible for CLBC supports) who needs a residential support service and the person providing support live together in the same house. In some situations, support is provided in the individual's home (live-in support) and in others it is in the provider's home.

Whether support is provided in the individual's home or the provider's home, it should feel like home for everybody involved. When home sharing is arranged in the home sharing provider's home, individuals always have their own personal space which they can decorate and make their own.

How does home sharing work?

Home sharing arrangements allow individuals and home sharing providers to live together and share many aspects of their lives, but also maintain their own separate lives. In home sharing arrangements, the home sharing provider has a responsibility to offer support and assistance based on the specific needs and goals of the individual.

Home sharing arrangements allow individuals to live an adult life with the support required to meet their daily needs and allow for a level of independence that makes sense for the individual.



Who oversees the home sharing arrangement?

CLBC works with a network of qualified service providers to offer home sharing in communities throughout BC. Home sharing may be offered by community agencies or directly through CLBC. The same expectations for approving a home sharing provider and monitoring services apply whether CLBC or a qualified community agency contract for the service.

How will we find the right home sharing situation?

The first step is to contact a CLBC facilitator in your region (see CLBC website for map and office locations). The facilitator will help to develop a plan and provide information about home sharing choices. Often, the right home sharing provider may be a member of the individual's personal support network. In this case, CLBC staff can provide information about the required criteria and the process for applying to become a home sharing service provider. This discussion can be started at any time and is an important part of creating the right residential supports to meet your family member's unique needs.



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* A CLBC eligible adult is a person who is 19 years of age or older and who meets the eligibility criteria described in the Eligibility for CLBC Supports and Services Policy.

How stable is home sharing?

Relationships between individuals and home sharing providers often last for many years. As with all living situations, sometimes changes have to be made and sometimes people move. When this is the case, CLBC or the home sharing agency work with individuals and their support networks to make a smooth transition to a new home.

How will I know if my family member is safe?

Family members and other people in the support network play an important role in making sure individuals are safe through regular contact and visits. Home sharing providers welcome the involvement of family and friends in the lives of each individual. Individuals and their families will participate in the final selection process of a home sharing provider for their own circumstances. Formal safeguards, such as home sharing approval processes and monitoring guidelines are also in place. All home sharing providers must be approved through a home study process.

When home sharing is delivered under contract with CLBC, a CLBC staff person visits the home at least once per year and is responsible for monitoring the arrangement. Agency staff visit and monitor the home when agencies are responsible for the home sharing arrangements.

Having a good life

The things that are needed to have a good life are really the same things that can keep people safe: caring relationships, opportunities for participation, and power over the conditions of daily life. That is why home sharing needs to be carefully developed for each individual based on their own goals and needs.

What kind of support is provided in home sharing arrangements?

The type and amount of support provided really depends on the specific needs of the individual. Individuals, family members, service providers, and CLBC work together to ensure that the support provided meets the individual's changing needs.

Home sharing is an individualized residential support that creates a relationship with consistent home sharing providers who come to know the individual and their unique needs. It can be developed to respond to a range of support needs

and may be the best choice to accommodate individuals with complex support needs. Home sharing providers are expected to have demonstrated skills and relevant training.

Individuals who choose this residential arrangement may also access other services such as community inclusion or employment support.

Is home sharing a new residential service?

No, home sharing is not new. The name of this residential arrangement may have changed over the years (proprietary care, family care, host family services, etc.), but the model of having an adult who needs residential support and the person providing support live in the same home has been available since the 1970s.

Where can I find more information, such as:

Where the home will be?

Who else lives in the home?

What the neighbourhood is like?

Will other CLBC eligible adults live in the home?

Who are the home sharing providers? Can we meet them first?

What if the arrangement is not a good fit?

What if my family member wants to move?

Families will have different questions about their own situations that CLBC and or the home sharing agency will work with you to answer. There are many different ways that home sharing can be arranged.

In home sharing, the focus is always on the individual and ensuring that they are well supported. As with any support or service, it is important that everybody involved works together to make sure that all options are explored and all questions are answered. If you are interested in learning more about home sharing or have questions about your own situation, please contact your local CLBC office.

For More Information

For more information about home sharing, please visit www.communitylivingbc.ca and go to Individuals & Families > Home Sharing. To learn more about planning, you can find the Information for Families on Planning sheet under Policies & Publications > Publications > Information for Families.

You can contact CLBC toll free at 1-877-660-2522.