

## Developmental Disabilities Administration Selecting a Residential Service Provider for Adults

Community residential providers are contracted statewide with the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to provide residential services to adult clients. Services include:

- Supported Living
- State Operated Living Alternatives
- Group Training Homes or Group Homes
- Alternative Living
- Companion Homes

To receive services an individual must be:

- At least 18 year of age
- Eligible and enrolled in DDA services and Medicaid
- On or approved for the CORE Waiver or the Community Protection Waiver
- Assessed by DDA as needing services in a supported living setting

For specific questions about waiver status or what residential options may be available, contact your [DDA case resource manager](#).

Use the following questions to help select a residential service provider.

Ask questions of residential service providers that reflect:

### What is Important to You?

- Do I have to move to receive services from you?
- Do I have common interests with people who already live in the house?
- Do I get to choose my housemates?
- Who will help the staff get to know me?
- Can I have my friends come to my house?
- Can I go to my family's house to visit or have my family over to visit with me?
- Can my pet move into this home with me? Will my housemates own a pet?
- Does anyone smoke who lives in the house? Can I smoke in the house?
- How many people will I share a house with? Are they quiet, noisy, friendly?
- Will I get help cooking the things I like to eat?

## Support Services & Activities

- How will your agency assist me to develop and build friendships?
- How will your agency support me to achieve my personal goals?
- I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_. How will you support me to continue doing this?
- I would like to learn how to \_\_\_\_\_. How will the staff help me to learn this?
- Will you help me get to the doctor, shopping or to the movie theater? How does that work?
- Will you help me find fun things to do in my community?

## Provider Qualifications

- How does your agency review whether I am getting the supports I need?
- Will my family member or I have input in hiring staff who will be assisting me?
- How are people assigned to work with me? Will they be the same people every day?
- Do the people who assist me work all day with me or will I have multiple people help me throughout the day? How often will my staff change?
- Is there someone you support or a family member that I could ask questions?
- May I receive copies of any family/client satisfaction surveys?
- May I receive a copy of your agency's most recent certification review or provider practice findings?
- How much training is provided to your staff?
- How long has this agency been providing this service? How many people do you support?
- What makes your service unique from other residential service providers?
- Do you specialize in any one area?

## Environment & Surroundings

- As I arrive, do I like the location and outward appearance?
- Is the home close to my friends and relatives? Is it close to my job?
- Is the home on a noisy street?
- Is the home neat, clean, and free of odors?
- What furniture will I need to bring with me if I move here?
- Is the home accessible for me (is there a walk-in shower, ramp, railings, room for my wheelchair in the bathroom,)?
- If I want to use public transportation, is the home near a bus stop?
- How far away is the grocery store?

## Finances

- Who helps me with my money if your agency supports me?
- How much will it cost me to live here? What bills will I have?
- Who pays for my rent and my food?
- How do I get my groceries?
- If I live with other people how do I know how much it will cost me to live here?
- Will my name be on the rental agreement or lease?
- Are you the landlord?
- How do I sign up for cable? May I keep my cell phone?

Your financial responsibility towards living expenses or support services will vary across residential settings:

- If you receive **Supported Living services**, you rent, lease or own your home or apartment and typically share the living space with others. You are responsible to pay rent, utilities, cable, phone, garbage, food and all other living expenses. The support staff can assist you to make these payments and budget your money.
- In licensed facility-based settings, such as a **Group Training Home or Group Home**, monthly participation is calculated based on your income and covers your room and board.
- In a certified **Companion Home**, you live in a home with the companion home provider and will have a room-and-board agreement which determines the amount you will pay directly to the provider month;u.

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For more information on DDA residential programs **or the level of service** you will receive, contact your case resource manager.

**For more information on specific service providers in your area**, contact the Resource Management Unit in your region:

- Region 1      Erin Breitenstein      509-374-2132
- Region 2      Kenny Davis      206-568-5689
- Region 3      Deanna Aldridge      360-501-2490