



What Do I Need to Know as a Supports Coordinator (SC) to Promote Life Sharing?

Description of Life Sharing (how to explain the service to individuals and families)

Life Sharing is when an individual shares their life, experiences and a home with a caregiver (Life Sharer/Host Family), who assists the individual to engage in lifelong learning.

- The Life Sharer shares their experiences with the individual including their day-to-day activities (getting ready for the day, meals, maintaining the home, health & wellness, etc.), participating in the community (work, appointments, volunteering, fitness routines, religious experiences, etc.), exploring & learning new interests.
- There will be support and monitoring by the Life Sharing Provider and SC.

The individual will be carefully matched with a potential Life Sharer, of the individual's choice, in a home that is not owned or leased by a provider.

Life Sharer Options

- Someone who is unrelated to the individual (e.g. community members, friends, former acquaintances, etc.).
- Relative(s),
- Legal guardians, or



Please note, Life Sharing does not replace the individual's family – it expands their support network. Families and loved ones are encouraged to have close relationships to those who choose the Life Sharing service.

Life Sharing Providers (What is a Provider?)

The Life Sharing Provider (the agency who oversees the Life Sharing service) will assist and support the Life Sharer and individual with their Life Sharing relationship. The Provider will also help the Life Sharer with any specific requirements or training (such as with health and wellness, habilitative outcomes, assessments, and relief for the Life Sharer), etc.

The Provider is responsible to ensure the Life Sharing service meets the individual's needs as outlined in the individual's ISP and the service definition found in the ODP waivers.

The individual and family will be offered a choice of Providers. The SC is responsible to help with locating a Provider.

The Benefits of Life Sharing

Life Sharing is consistently rated with the highest satisfaction by individuals and families. Benefits include:

- Living an everyday life;
- Increasing independence;
- Developing meaningful relationships;
- Consistent caregivers;
- Personalized care; &
- More opportunities to work towards the individual's personal goals.

The Process to Start Life Sharing Services

1. Individual chooses Life Sharing as their Residential Service.
2. The SC identifies and makes referrals to meet with qualified and willing providers.
3. The individual and family chooses a Provider.
4. The Provider and SC have conversations with the individual about their preferences, choices, what is important to them, what they don't want, etc., when sharing their life with someone (recommend the use of the LifeCourse Tools in this conversation <https://home.myodp.org/community-of-practice-2/community-of-practice-charting-the-lifecourse/>)
5. The Provider assists the individual with finding a Life Sharer
6. The Provider schedules multiple visits with the Life Sharer to ensure compatibility

This process will continue until the individual chooses a Life Sharer and begin Life Sharing services

How is Life Sharing Paid for?

- Consolidated & Community Living Waivers
- Adult Autism Waiver
- County Funding (base funding), if available
- Private pay

How is the Life Sharer Paid?

The Life Sharing Provider determines how to pay the Life Sharer. Generally, the Life Sharer is paid a stipend through a written agreement made with the Provider