

LIFESHARING IN PENNSYLVANIA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Lifesharing?

Lifesharing is living with and sharing life experiences with supportive persons who form a caring household.

Who can do Lifesharing?

Singles, companions, married couples, birth families, relatives and legal guardians.

How many people can be supported in one home?

Lifesharing can be done with 1 or 2 people with disabilities in a single home. Individuals' needs and preferences are considered in making the decision to become involved in Lifesharing.

What is expected of Lifesharers?

Lifesharers are to provide a warm, nurturing home while supporting people to enhance their lives. The family or individual must comply with the policies, procedures and regulations of the agency, the county and the state in order to provide a safe, nurturing and healthy environment.

Who supports Lifesharers?

- ~Agencies
- Support Coordinators
- ~Lifesharing Coalition
- ~County Intellectual Disability offices
- ~Office of Developmental Programs



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What are the benefits of being part of Lifesharing?

- ~the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life
- ~a new friend and companion
- ~unique gifts and talents the individual will bring to the relationship
- ~support of the Lifesharing community
- ~a generous stipend
- ~substitute care and respite

What are the benefits for people with a disability to be a part of Lifesharing?

- ~to be a member of a caring household
- ~friendship and trust in people who care about them
- ~continuity in one's life
- ~increased involvement in community

How can I get additional information on Lifesharing?

Call a Lifesharing Coalition member from your region, listed in this brochure.

- *Contact your local county intellectual disability office
- *Contact a local agency that offers Lifesharing or use the contact information on the back of this brochure.
- *Visit these websites:
 - ~www.palifesharing.com
 - ~www.myodp.org
 - ~www.hcsis.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Lifesharing
Coalition

PA LIFESHARING COALITION



What are some of the qualifications/requirements for Lifesharing?

~Home Study/Intake

A period of 3-6 months is recommended to facilitate the development of relationships. However there is no fixed time-frame—this is a natural process based on the person and his/her choices

~Criminal Background Check

~Child Abuse Clearance

~Training

~Time and space to support a Lifesharing relationship

~Independent contractor

Having a place to go is HOME

Having someone to love is FAMILY

Having both is a WONDERFUL LIFE

Lifesharing Coalition

Mission:

To promote, support and embrace the concept of Lifesharing and the philosophies of self-determination and everyday lives

Lifesharing Coalition

The state-wide Lifesharing Coalition meets every other month, starting in February.

The Coalition offers:

- ~Networking
- ~Technical Assistance
- ~Recruitment Strategies
- ~Mentoring
- ~Licensing Supports
- ~Training

Regional Lifesharing Coalition

The Regional Coalitions meet every other month starting in January. These meetings provide wonderful opportunities for agencies and Lifesharing families to organize events and to share information and experiences. Meetings are held in each of the four regions.

Meeting dates and locations are listed on our website: <http://www.palifesharing.com>



PA LIFESHARING COALITION



Regional Coalition Contacts

SOUTHEAST

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Visit our website for more information at:

<http://www.palifesharing.com/>

PENNSYLVANIA LIFESHARING COALITION

Lifesharing, also known as “Family Living” (55 PA Code 6500), officially began in Pennsylvania in 1982 with a family in Berks County who wanted to support their friend in their own home.

To reflect the diversity of relationships in these living arrangements, “Family Living” became best known as LIFESHARING to better describe the lifestyles and choices of the people being supported.

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