



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

# Shared Living Arrangements | FAQ

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## THE BASICS

### ❖ What is a Home Provider?

An independent contractor, a trusted guide, advocate, a friend, a caregiver, an individual who wants to take an adult with a developmental disability into their home.

### ❖ What are my responsibilities as a Home Provider?

You are responsible to provide for the health and well-being of the individual in your home including personal care, meals, shelter, clothing, transportation, community involvement and religious participation. Home Providers are expected to communicate regularly with the support team, maintain documentation and participate in meetings.

### ❖ What is the time commitment for being a Home Provider?

We require a minimum of a one-year commitment, however the goal is long term.

This is a 24-hour funded program. However, some individuals are employed and/ or receive day services in addition to the SLA services you provide. It is important to note that if the individual does not attend due to illness, closure etc., it is your responsibility to provide for the individuals at these times.

### ❖ How do I become a Home Provider?

The screening process includes an application, National Background check, personal and medical reference checks, personal interviews, a home inspection and Pre-Service Orientation. Once a home and home provider are been approved we begin the matching process.

Based on information obtained during the screening process, referrals from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, agency recommendations and your input, a match is proposed. Meetings and visits are arranged. We strive to ensure that the visiting process happens over the period of month(s) so that both the home provider and Individual are making an informed decision.





## THE STEPS



### ❖ What are the steps to becoming a Home Provider?

#### 1. INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Discuss Perspectives Shared Living (SLA) and the services we provide with the Shared Living Coordinator or designee.

#### 2. APPLICATION FORMS

Completion of the application which will require passing a national criminal background records check, submitting names and phone numbers for references.

#### 3. REFERENCE CHECKS

In the application process reference checks are completed.

#### 4. HOMESTUDY / INSPECTION

The SLA Coordinator conducts the Home Inspection. During the visit they will check the home to ensure it meets Perspectives standards and Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH) Licensing regulations.

#### 5. INTERVIEWS

These meetings will occur with all household members. The purpose of these meetings is to gather as much information in order to make the matching process as successful as possible.

#### 6. PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

All Home Providers need to attend a Pre-Service Orientation before servicing anyone in the agency's program. You will also need to submit proof of CPR, Drivers license, vehicle registration, inspection and insurance as well as homeowner's or renter's insurance.

#### 7. THE MATCHING PROCESS

Upon approval, a new Home Provider is matched with an individual and the contact with the Service Coordinator assigned will begin.



## THE DETAILS

### ❖ How long does it take to get cleared to participate in SLA?

Once your completed application is received, it takes approximately three to four weeks to complete reference checks and receive your Background check.

### ❖ Can I work while participating in SLA?

Yes, however, it depends on the type of program the individual participates in. You cannot be employed by Perspectives and be an SLA Home Provider. If you are a household member in an SLA home, you can be an employee of Perspectives. If the Individual participates in Whole Life SLA, you are unable to work.

### ❖ Can I have more than one person living in my home participating in SLA?

You can have up to 2 individuals who receive support, as long as they each have their own bedroom.

### ❖ What support does the agency provide to the SLA Provider?

Each Home Provider and individual living with them has an assigned Service Coordinator. In addition, the SLA Coordinator and Directors are available. The Service Coordinator's role is to meet regularly and oversee the overall status of the arrangement. The Directors are on call 24/7 for emergency or urgent matters.

### ❖ How much information is provided to me regarding an individual's background, mental health, etc?

Once the matching process begins, basic information will be provided. As the matching process continues, more information will be provided as appropriate, with the consent of the Individual receiving support.

### ❖ What is the level of a typical individual's community involvement?

Each individual is different depending factors such as; age, medical status, employment, family relationships, interests, etc.

### ❖ What happens if I can no longer provide SLA or if the individual is not a match for my home/family? Where does the person go?

Perspectives will work with the individual and the Division of Developmental Disabilities to find an appropriate living arrangement.



## THE BENEFITS

### ❖ What do Home Providers earn?

A tax-free, daily stipend is paid based on the individuals assigned funding level. Each individual is evaluated by the Division of Developmental Disabilities through a procedure called a Supports Intensity Scale (SIS). The assigned level correlates with the needs, and therefore funding, of the individual. Additional compensation is available through the Individual's funding depending upon the Individual's day programming and transportation needs. The Home Provider also receives respite allocation. The Home Provider is also paid 2/3rds of the standard SSI for room and board expenses. If the Agency is the Representative Payee, the home provider is responsible for assisting the individual to manage their money and documenting spending.

### ❖ Is the money received for SLA taxable?

No taxes are withheld from the stipend or SSI payments. Regarding reportable earnings consult your accountant.

### ❖ Will I get reimbursed for mileage for using my own vehicle to transport?

No, unless you as the Home Provider transport the individual to their day program or place of employment.





## CONTACT US



### ❖ How do I learn more?

If you're interested in sharing your life and home with a person with an intellectual or developmental disability, please contact Gabrielle Salisbury, Perspectives' Shared Living Program Coordinator, at (401) 626-0476 or [gsalisbury@perspectivescorporation.com](mailto:gsalisbury@perspectivescorporation.com). You can also call us at Perspectives' Main Office Phone at (401) 294-3990.

### ❖ If I complete an application, what are my next steps?

Completed applications should be sent to Gabrielle Salisbury, Perspectives' Shared Living Program Coordinator.

#### **Gabrielle Salisbury**

SLA Program Coordinator

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