



Are You Interested in Becoming a Shared Living Provider?

Shared Living is a residential option in which an adult with a developmental disability shares a home with someone who is contracted to provide ongoing support. Shared Living may be offered by community based agencies like **posAbilities** or directly by Community Living British Columbia (CLBC). Homes may be owned, rented or leased by the shared living provider or by the individual requiring support. In some situations, the shared living provider's family lives in the home. In others, people live together as roommates.

In most situations, Shared Living involves very close relationships. The individuals share not only their physical space but also their lives, typically spending a lot of time together and being actively involved in each other's daily activities. In other situations, the shared living arrangement is characterized by more independent relationships, with members coming together at specific times or for specific purposes.

People who choose this living arrangement find that it provides an ideal balance of support and independence. It is entirely person-centered in that it allows individuals to select a shared living provider and home environment that meets their wants, goals and preferences. Support is flexible and evolves according to the individuals' changing needs. For some, shared living is a stepping-stone to even greater independence. For others, it is an arrangement that will last for many years.



How Do I Become a Shared Living Provider?

The approval and screening process is very comprehensive and involves all members of the household. It is important to be aware that being approved as a shared living provider does not guarantee that you will receive a contract. Contracts are issued based on a number of variables including the individual's preferences and requirements for support.

Shared Living is not generally viewed as an entry into the field of Community Living. Contractors are expected to have previous experience supporting adults with a developmental disability. They embrace diversity and believe every person is an equal and valued member of community. Additional language and experience in the areas of mental health and aging are also considered desirable.

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What are *posAbilities'* Responsibilities?

- Formal monitoring in the home
- Ongoing support for shared living providers
- 24/7 call support to address urgent response needs and to facilitate complaint resolution
- Support in referrals to community based resources (when required)
- Support to facilitate complaint resolution
- Frequent communication with shared living providers, as well as persons served
- Support to facilitate meetings with employment services, mental health teams, educational institutions, volunteer positions, as well as with other service providers



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the basic expenses associated with Shared Living?

Typically, individuals make a contribution towards expenses as outlined by the Ministry of Social Development. This is considered a "user fee" and includes a shelter portion, food and other miscellaneous expenses such as basic cable, cleaning supplies, etc. Some individuals contribute only the shelter portion and choose to purchase their own food and other related household items with support.

What happens if the arrangement does not work out for either party?

Shared living providers are required to provide a 30 day notice prior to the termination of their contract when possible. Individuals may also be asked to provide notice. *posAbilities* would arrange a meeting with the parties to ascertain what worked and what did not work. Following this, we would begin the next steps towards finding another shared living provider.

What happens if the person wants to move?

People do request to move for various reasons such as they would like a more independent model within our Shared Living service, they would like to move to a different area of Metro Vancouver, etc. This is typically communicated by the person served themselves, with the support of their family or the shared living provider. We do have to provide a notice period (typically 30 days) to the shared living provider then meet together to determine what it is the person is looking for. We then introduce them to some options and look at the transition phase to a new home.

What happens if I/we want to move?

This can happen too. Oftentimes, everyone moves together but there are considerations such as transit accessibility, distance to family, friends and other supports, community resources, etc. The person served would be involved in looking for a new home with the family, packing and moving their belongings. There will be planning and transition meetings. If the person served chooses not to move, we will work together to find a new home.



What Type of Supports Do We Offer?

You can choose to participate in an array of different learning opportunities:

- Mandt® System Training – a relationship based philosophy and values system that holds as a key principle, each person's participation in decisions that impact his or her life.
- Specialized sessions are offered, including:
 - Aging and related issues around dementia
 - Deaf-culture workshops
 - Healthy relationships
 - Mental health in-services
 - Person-centered planning
 - Positive Behavior Support
 - Representation Agreements
 - Substance use

How do I get started?

For more information, please call 778-945-3368 or email sharedliving@posabilities.ca

www.posAbilities.ca

thepossibilitiesofsharedliving

