

SUPPORTED LIVING WITH SHIFT STAFFING TIP SHEET

In this type of supported living, the individual owns or rents a home and receives the supports he needs to live there from a residential services provider. The direct support staff work in shifts usually of 8 hours to provide coverage during all hours that the individual is not attending a day program.

Two or three housemates share the home. Funding for a one person, shift-staffed home is available only for people who have behavioral or medical conditions that pose a serious and imminent danger of self-harm or harm to others which cannot be reasonably and adequately managed in a residence shared with other residents.

All homes in which supported living is provided must pass a safety inspection conducted by DMRS prior to entering into a mortgage or lease agreement.

Advantages

- Individual does not have to move just because the individual changes providers.
- Shift staffing can accommodate people with very severe behavioral or medical conditions.
- The individual/family participates in selecting staff and housemates.
- Number of housemates is no more than two others.

Disadvantages

- High staff turnover. Average longevity of shift staff is 6 months.
- Requires household furnishings and deposits. (Establishment funds may be available. Confirm with the regional office before entering into a mortgage or lease.)
- Requires adequate personal resources for rent or mortgage payments and living expenses. (Housing subsidy may be available. Confirm with the regional office before entering into a mortgage or lease.)
- Greater likelihood of inconsistent provision of supports due to number of staff and frequency of staff turnover.
- Stock of affordable housing is very limited in many areas.
- Housing stock that can accommodate people using wheelchairs and other large equipment is severely limited. (Funding for environmental modifications is available but limited to \$15,000 every two years.)
- Landlords are not always responsive to the need for more frequent repairs necessary for many individuals with special needs. Medicaid funds may not be used for repairs and maintenance.