



Expanding Life Sharing

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Webinar Presenters:

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- In 1982, the Office of Developmental Programs: concept of Life Sharing
- In 1983, pilot program in Berks County through The Arc of Philadelphia, started Life Sharing
- By 1997, Life Sharing had spread to virtually every county in the state.
- Mid 1980's, the state Family Living Subcommittee (now Life Sharing Coalition) began
 - The Coalition is open to anyone interested in Life Sharing.





- **Provider:** The Life Sharing agency that oversees the Life Sharing home
- **Individual:** The person who is receiving the Life Sharing service
- **Life Sharer:** The person who is providing the Life Sharing service to the individual
- **Host Family:** The other person(s) who live in the home with the Life Sharer and individual

What is Life Sharing



“The service is built on the individual engaging in lifelong learning. The Life Sharer will assist the individual with general areas of self-care, health, supportive decision making, home management, personal resources, communication, etc. – everything needed in an everyday life.”

– ODP Waiver Definition

To the extent that Life Sharing is provided in community settings outside of the residence, the settings must be inclusive rather than segregated.





- Trips / Vacation with Life Sharing Family
- Life Skills – such as learning how to budget or spend money
- Everyday tasks like grocery shopping
- Everyday routines, such as sharing meals
- Being involved in the community



Life Sharing ranks as having the highest satisfaction for having an everyday life.

-IM4Q data

Where? Who?



- In the individual's personal home
- In the home of a relative;
- In the home of a legal guardian
- In the home of someone who is unrelated to the individual (i.e. community members, friends, acquaintance, etc.)





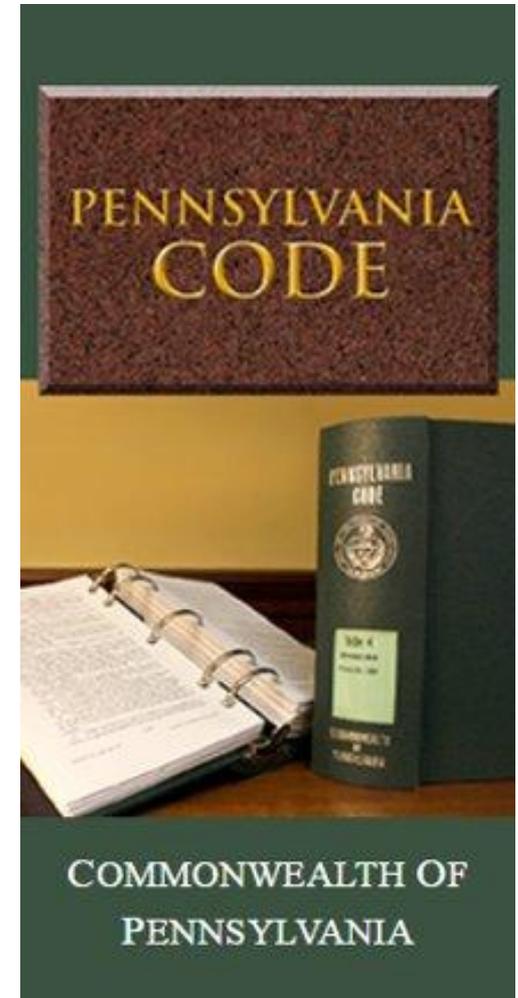
- Any individual who is eligible for ODP's Waivers and needs a residential service
- Life Sharing only available in the Consolidated, Community Living, and Adult Autism Waivers
- For ALL individuals of all ages – regardless of the level of support they need



- Meet Provider Qualifications
- Responsible to ensure assistance, support, & guidance is provided to the individual for self-care, health, decision making, home management, etc.
- Ensure outcomes are being worked on & met
- Ongoing development & implementation of ISP
- Collaboration with individual's team (social, medical, & others)



- Having qualified staff, including:
 - Life Sharing Specialist
 - Behavioral Specialist
 - Supportive Technology
 - Professional (if rendering remote support)
 - Nurse (RN or LPN) (if providing Life Sharing to individuals with a medically complex condition)
- Following related regulations: 6100 & 6500
- Following ODP's Waivers policies & procedures





55 Pa.Code Chapter 6500 establishes the minimum requirements for life sharing agencies and the homes they operate.

Life sharing homes must be licensed under Chapter 6500 unless:

- The home is owned, rented, or leased by the individual or an individual's relative. "Relative" means parent, child, stepparent, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew, or
- The individuals served only require a yearly average of 30 hours of direct Life Sharing services per week.



On July 1, 2022, eligibility in ODP waivers was expanded to include children and individuals, under the age of 22, with a developmental disability due to a medically complex condition. ODP also added customized services available to individuals with medically complex conditions in the community.

A medically complex condition is a chronic health condition that affects 3+ organ systems, and the individual requires medically necessary skilled nursing intervention to execute medical regimens, to use technology for respiration, nutrition, medication administration or other bodily functions.



The agency must be licensed under 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6500 for Life Sharing Homes as applicable.

- Exception: when living with a relative (see previous slides)

At least one staff person must be a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). The RN or LPN will have the following responsibilities:

- Conducting and documenting routine monitoring and assessment of the participant's health and safety in coordination with the Life Sharing Specialist;
- Providing relevant health care and safety related training to the host family and any additional life sharing staff providing support in coordination with the Life Sharing Specialist;
- Overseeing access to and coordination of medical care including assisting the host family with medical appointments and maintaining documentation related to health care; and being promptly available to the host family for consultation on an as needed basis



- Enhanced requirements related to participation and management of the individual's medical care
- The type & amount of assistance, support and guidance are informed by the assessed need for physical, psychological, medical, or emotional assistance...
- Provider Qualifications & Host Family Qualifications
- DP1090 Form

Benefits to Providing Life Sharing



PBC Pay for Performance-[ODPANN+24-103+Performance-Based+Contracting+Residential+Pay-for-+Performance+Details+Now+Available.pdf](#)

Transition to Independent Living Payments- [ODPANN+22-068+Update+#2+Transition+to+Independent+Living+Payments.pdf](#)

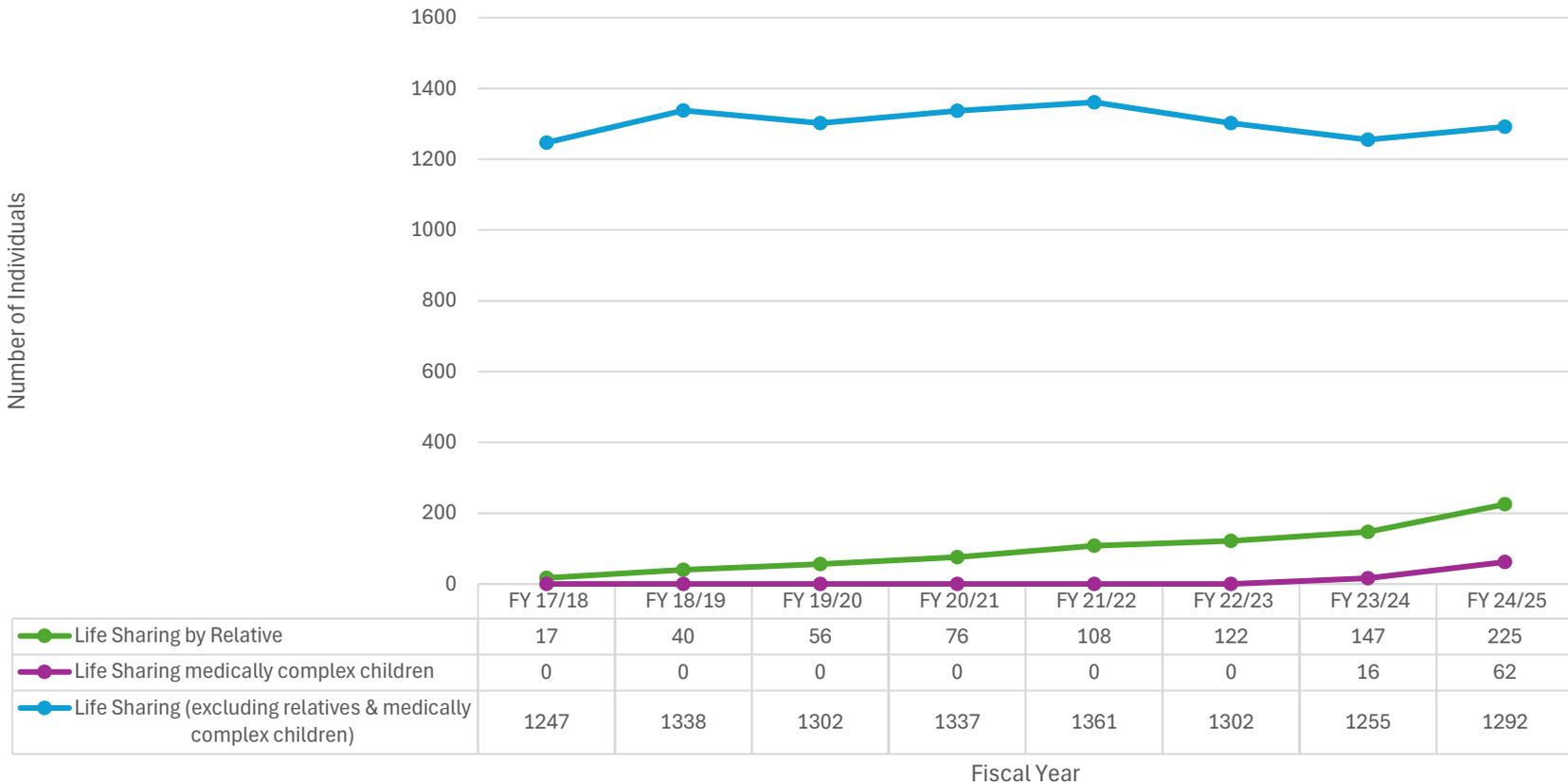


FY 24/25 Annual Cost per person (including all services received) by Living Arrangement

<u>Living Arrangement</u>	<u>Average per Individual</u>
Supportive Housing Pilot	\$98,991.02
Life Sharing	\$106,817.88
Group Home	\$249,469.29
Private ICF/ID	\$258,534.93
State Run Institution	\$388,931.44

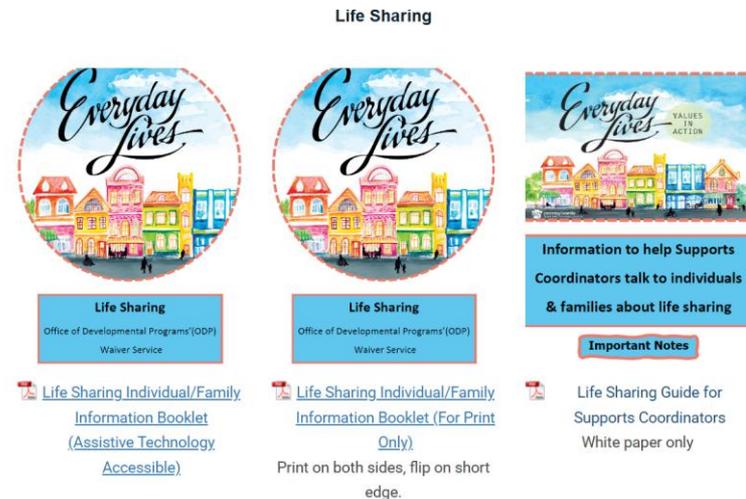


Number of Individuals in Life Sharing by Fiscal Year



How to Begin Life Sharing

- **Conversation with the individual, Supports Coordinator, & any person(s) the individual wants to be involved**
 - Promotional Materials
- **Provider qualifications process with the Administrative Entity (AE)**
- **Find new Life Sharers**
- **Network with other professionals such as the Life Sharing Coalition**





- Life Sharing Coalition: [Pennsylvania Lifesharing Coalition - Online](#)
- Promotional Materials: [Life Sharing – MyODP](#)
- Performance-Based Contracting Documents: [Performance-Based Contracting – MyODP](#)
- Waivers: [Waivers | Department of Human Services | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)
- Transition to Independent Living Payments - ODP Announcement 22-068
- Needs Exception Rate - ODP Announcement 23-083
- Regional Supporting Families Collaboratives: [Community of Practice – Regional Collaboratives – MyODP](#)
- 6100 & 6500 Regulations - [Pennsylvania Code - Title 55 Human Services](#)
- ISP Manual: [Attachment+1-Individual+Support+Plan+Manual+-+1-8-26.pdf](#)

For questions, please email: ODP's Regional Office or your AE Regional Office



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- Life Sharing Providers: Kathy Trumbore, MSW – KenCrest, Joe Karpinski – CSG

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