



## **Information to help Supports Coordinators talk to individuals & families about life sharing**

### **Important Notes**

Life Sharing does not replace the individual's family – it expands their support network. Families and loved ones are encouraged to be part of the matching process and continue to have close relationships to those who choose the Life Sharing service.

The individual and family will be offered choices of providers; the SC is responsible to help with locating those providers.

Life Sharing is consistently rated with the highest satisfaction score by individuals and families.

## **Description of Life Sharing**

Life Sharing is when an individual shares their life, experiences, and a home with a caregiver (Life Sharer/Host Family), who assists the individual to engage in lifelong learning.

- The Life Sharer shares their experiences with the individual including their day-to-day activities (getting ready for the day, meals, maintaining the home, health, & wellness, etc.), participating in the community (work, appointments, volunteering, fitness routines, religious experiences, etc.), exploring & learning new interests.
- There will be support & monitoring by the Life Sharing provider and SC.

## **What is a Life Sharing Provider?**

The Life Sharing Provider (the agency who oversees the Life Sharing service) will assist & support the Life Sharer and individual with their Life Sharing relationship. The Provider will also help the Life Sharer with any specific requirements or training (such as with health & wellness, habilitative outcomes, assessments, & relief for the Life Sharer), etc. The provider is responsible to ensure the Life Sharing service meets the individual's needs as outlined in the individual's ISP and the service definition found in the ODP waivers.

## **Life Sharing Options**

- Someone who is unrelated to the individual (e.g. community members, friends, former acquaintances, etc.),
- Relative(s), or
- Legal Guardians.

## **What are the Benefits of Life Sharing?**

- Living an everyday life,
- Increasing independence,
- Developing meaningful relationships,
- Consistent caregivers,
- Personalized care, and
- Opportunities to work towards the individual's personal goals.

## **How is Life Sharing Paid?**

- Consolidated & Community Living Waivers;
- Adult Autism Waiver;
- County Funding (base funding), if available; or
- Private pay.

## **How is the Life Sharer Paid?**

The Life Sharing Provider determines how to pay the Life Sharer. Generally, the Life Sharer is paid a stipend through a written agreement made with the Provider.

## **The Process to Start Life Sharing Services**

1. The individual chooses Life Sharing as their residential service.
2. The SC identifies and makes referrals to meet with qualified & willing providers.
3. The individual & family chooses a provider.
4. The provider & SC have conversations with the individual about their preferences, choices, what is important to them, what they don't want, etc., when sharing their life with someone (recommend the use of LifeCourse Tools in this conversation. <https://myodp.neindex.org/community-of-practice-2/community-of-practice-charting-the-lifecourse/>).
5. The provider assists the individual with finding a Life Sharer.
6. The provider schedules multiple visits with the Life Sharer to ensure compatibility.