



# Everyday Lives

## **Life Sharing**

Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP)

Waiver Service

# What is Life Sharing?

Having an everyday life ensures people with disabilities decide how to live their lives, including where they want to live and how they want to receive services and supports. Life Sharing is one of the Residential services that ODP offers; provided in a supportive home with caring adults who help with daily life.

In Life Sharing the individual shares their life & experiences with a caregiver, known as a Life Sharer or host family. The Life Sharer can be the individual's:

- relative(s),
- legal guardian, or
- someone who is unrelated to the individual (i.e. community members, friends, former acquaintances, etc.).

Life Sharing is about forming meaningful relationships and sharing daily life with supportive people.

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.



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

The Life Sharing provider (the agency who is overseeing the Life Sharing service) will assist and support the Life Sharer through training and supervision.

The provider is responsible to ensure the Life Sharing service is provided to meet the individual's needs as outlined in the service definition found in the ODP Waivers.

## **Who Could Consider Life Sharing?**

This service is for any individual who has an intellectual disability, autism, and/or developmental disability (including individuals with a medically complex condition) and is eligible for ODP services.

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

Life Sharing is consistently rated with the highest satisfaction by individuals & families. Benefits include:

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

## How to Begin?

1. The individual can have a conversation with their Supports Coordinator (SC) about their interest in receiving the Life Sharing service.
2. The SC will offer choices of Life Sharing Providers.
3. The Life Sharing Provider will help carefully match the individual with a potential Life Sharer through multiple visits, time spent together, etc.



All people and their families receive integrated supports and services for a “good life.”

## **Lifesharing Experience**

The individual & Life Sharer will share their experiences with one another, including their day-to-day living (getting ready for the day, meals, maintaining the home, health & wellness, etc.), transportation to & participating in the community (work, appointments, volunteering, fitness routines, religious experiences, etc.), exploring & learning new interests. Life Sharing empowers the individual to make their own decisions.

## **Organizations to Participate in**

- **The PA Family Network:**

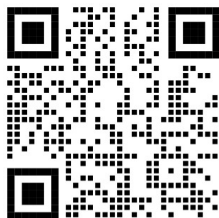
<https://www.visionforequality.org/programs/pa-family-network/>

- **Self Advocates United as 1:**

<https://sau1.org/>

## Resources & More Life Sharing information

Scan the QR code below with your phone Camera or type the link into your browser.



<https://home.myodp.org/resources/lifesharing/>

## Questions?

Please contact your local:

1. Supports Coordination Organization
2. County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Office
3. ODP Regional Office
4. ODP Customer Service Line 1-888-565-9435

ODP is a state office operating within the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.



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