



## **Shared Housing Option Client FAQs**

### **What is Shared Housing?**

Shared Housing is when two or more individuals share a home or apartment and share common living spaces such as the living room and bathroom. Each tenant has their own lease with the landlord. It is a great way to lower housing costs, living expenses, and access more desirable housing options.

### **Who is eligible for the Shared Housing Option?**

Individuals and families who are enrolled in any housing program that offers a Shared Housing Option.

### **Do I choose whom I live with?**

Yes. If you have a person or persons that you would like to live with, let your case manager know! If not, a process has been established to help you select potential housemates. After completing a brief survey, you will be sent an email with possible matches you may be compatible with. You will have the opportunity to meet with your matches to make sure that they would be a good fit. Your Case Manager and a Shared Housing Coordinator will help you throughout the process.

### **What happens if one of my housemates leaves and doesn't pay their rent?**

If your housemate leaves a balance with the landlord, you are not responsible for that balance. The Shared Housing Coordinator will repeat the housemate pairing process to find another housemate.

### **How do we divide utilities?**

You and your housemates will discuss potential options for splitting and paying monthly bills. Once everyone has agreed on a plan, you will sign a housemate agreement that clearly states how utilities will be split and paid if the landlord does not include them in the rent.

### **Who does the chores?**

You decide on your own house rules with your housemates and include them in a signed housemate agreement. These rules can be revisited and revised over time.

### **What happens if I want my own place? Is Shared Housing permanent?**

You are only committing to the length of the lease agreement. You can decide to leave or renew your lease each year. Shared Housing can be a bridge to your next-step housing plan or a long-term housing solution.

**What happens if there is a conflict with a housemate?**

The Shared Housing Option provides Peer Navigators and a Shared Housing Coordinator to assist with housemates' housing issues; however, we strongly encourage having a housemate meeting to see if the problem can be resolved within the home.