

Shared Living

Are you interested in becoming a shared living provider?

Shared Living is a residential option in which an adult with a developmental disability shares a home with someone who is contracted to provide ongoing support. Shared Living may be offered by community based agencies like **posAbilities** or directly by Community Living British Columbia (CLBC). Homes may be owned, rented or leased by the shared living provider or by the individual requiring support. In some situations, the shared living provider's family lives in the home. In others, people live together as roommates and enjoy a positive relationship.

In most situations, Shared Living involves very close relationships. The individuals within the shared living not only their physical space but also their lives, typically spending a lot of time together and being actively involved in each other's daily activities. In other situations, the shared living arrangement is characterized by more independent relationships, with the members of the home generally going their own ways, while coming together at specific times or for specific purposes.

People who choose this living arrangement find that it provides an ideal balance of support and independence. It is entirely person – centered in that it allows individuals to select a shared living provider and home environment that meets their unique goals and preferences. Support is flexible and evolves according to the individuals' changing needs. For some, shared living is a stepping-stone to even greater independence. For others, it is an arrangement that will last for many years.

How Do I Become a Shared Living Provider?

The approval and screening process is very comprehensive and involves all members of the household. It is important to be aware that being approved as a shared living provider does not guarantee that you will receive a contract. Contracts are issued based on a number of variables including the individual's preferences and requirements for support. Shared Living is not generally viewed as an entry into the field of Community Living. Contractors are expected to have previous experience supporting adults with a developmental disability. Additional language and experience in the areas of mental health and aging are also considered desirable.



What are *posAbilities*' responsibilities?

Agencies that offer Shared Living as part of their residential options are responsible for:

- Implementation of shared living service standards
- Monitoring the service and program outcomes
- Administration and service operations, including respite for shared living providers
- Recruitment, retention and support of the Shared Living Service
- Urgent response
- Complaint resolution



posAbilities offers 24/7 call support to its shared living providers.

Will I receive any training?

You can choose to participate in an array of different training and learning opportunities:

- Mandt® System Training – a relationship based philosophy and values system that holds as a key principle, each person's participation in decisions that impact his or her life.
- Specialized sessions as offered, including:
 - Aging and related issues around dementia
 - Deaf-culture workshops
 - Healthy relationships
 - Mental health in-services
 - Person-centered planning
 - Positive Behavior Support
 - Representation Agreements
 - Substance use
 - Documentation and Report Writing



How do I get started?

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a shared living provider, please email: SharedLiving@posAbilities.ca or call 604-299-4001 and ask to speak with the manager of

Shared Living. *We look forward to meeting you.*