



Community Living

There are many different options for people with disabilities when it comes to a place to call home. What will work for your sibling will depend on a variety of factors, including their preferences, care needs, and support services.

Questions to ask:

- How independent is your sibling in terms of their daily needs? Consider these things:

Meal Preparation & Food Preferences

Cleaning

Transportation

Personal Hygiene

- Would your sibling prefer to live with family? On their own? With roommates?

- What type of family support will be best for your sibling and the rest of the family? Will it be necessary for your sibling to move to a different area?

In Washington State, many types of living arrangements are possible. Your sibling's case manager can help you pursue possibilities that might be a good fit. Some of these options are paid for using state funding, family funds, by the residents themselves, or some combination of these.

Even though it might be difficult to talk about, it might be helpful to look into housing options before they become necessary. A slow and smooth transition into a different living arrangement is often easier on everyone.

Some types of housing options outside of living with family include:

- ~ **Adult Family Homes:** These are homes in the community with support staff to assist with the daily needs of the residents. Some Adult Family Homes specialize in serving people with developmental disabilities. These homes are licensed by the state and usually serve a group of residents living together.
- ~ **Companion Homes:** These homes function using an adult foster care model and serve only clients with a disability.
- ~ **Group Homes:** Group homes are houses in the community that serve groups of residents with disabilities. They can provide a variety of levels of support to residents but usually provide 24-hour support.
- ~ **Residential Habilitation Centers:** Formerly called institutions, these are state operated residential settings that provide 24 hour care to people with disabilities who are eligible. There are currently four RHCs operating in the state of Washington.
- ~ **Supported Living Services:** Supported Living Services offer support to people with disabilities in their own homes. The level of support varies widely depending on the needs of the resident.

Housing Resources:

Housing & Urban Development

hud.gov

Homechoice Program

wshfc.org/buyers/homechoice.htm

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

commerce.wa.gov

DDA Residential Services

dshs.wa.gov/dda/consumers-and-families/residential-services