



BECOME A SHARED LIVING PROVIDER!



Would you consider opening your home to a person with a disability?

Community Associates, the program of the Counseling Service of Addison County serving individuals experiencing a range of disabilities, is regularly looking to match individuals in need of supportive homes with families or individuals in the county, or nearby Brandon.

Who are these folks and why do they need homes?

- ◆ These are adults who may be looking to take that next step in their development and move from their family home to live as a housemate and learn some new skills but still need support and some level of supervision for safety.
- ◆ It may be a person whose natural family is no longer able to care for them due to age or changes in the family dynamic, or the death of a caregiver.
- ◆ It may be a person who was formerly in DCF custody and may not have involved family, who now has a state guardian and is in need of supports.
- ◆ All individuals will have some need for supervision or presence in their lives due to challenges related to a developmental disability. Some will need more support than others, some might also experience anxiety or another issue impacting their lives. Some may additionally have a physical disability.

Who can become a shared living provider?

- ◆ Often times a person who has some related experience. Perhaps you have personal life experience with a friend or relative with a disability, experience working in a school, with elders, or providing personal care. Perhaps you've worked as an EMT, Nurse, or social worker. Perhaps you've been a foster parent. Perhaps you grew up in a large family and have a generous heart and a spare room and want to make a difference in a person's life.
- ◆ You and all adults in your household will need to be able to pass a criminal, driving, and child and adult abuse registry background checks.
- ◆ Your home will need to be able to, or be made able, to pass a safety inspection.



How are you supported in this new role?

- ◆ The person living with you will have a Service Coordinator who will train you and be available for questions and any issues that arise in the home.
- ◆ The Service Coordinator will visit at minimum of once a month and hold a team meeting with you, the individual and their guardian if they have one.
- ◆ The individual often has the services and support of a guardian, a representative payee, and staffed services of some type (Community Integration time or employment).
- ◆ The agency has events and regular activities that you and your individual are encouraged to attend if they are of interest. This is a great opportunity to get to know other staff, shared living providers, and peers of your individual.
- ◆ This lifestyle has worked out amazingly well for the right individuals....some people have remained home providers for over 30 years!!!!

How do the finances work?

- ◆ When matched, you will become an independent contractor with the Counseling Service of Addison County.
- ◆ You will receive what is called a "Difficulty of Care stipend" monthly, the amount is based on the level of support and supervision the individual placed in your home requires. These stipends range from \$15,000 to \$60,000 annually. This stipend is considered tax-free. It is an excellent way to become home based if that is a goal of yours!
- ◆ The person living with you will pay a monthly Room and Board payment in addition, that amount is set by the state of VT and related to their Social Security income. It is currently approximately \$8,800 a year.
- ◆ You will be given a budget to use to hire respite workers for when you need a break or have a special activity. You will be the employer and there is a business called ARIS who will handle the payroll and taxes for you. Often times close friends of the family or friends who are also caregivers are used for respite.

To learn more about this work (a lifestyle really!), please contact Keiko Kokubun at Community Associates 388-4021. We can send you an application and home safety checklist to get the process started.

Check the CSAC website

<https://www.csac-vt.org/careers/shared-living-providers.html>
to read about individuals currently looking for home providers.