



Life sharing matching and ongoing support options

Scott Schifsky, Disability Services Division

Learning objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of people who choose life sharing
- Discuss the life sharing guidance and how it might work in your community.

What is Minnesota's vision?

- Life sharing is an option that matches a person with a disability with a caregiver who shares their home and relationships. A Life Sharing agency facilitates this robust matching process to help people get to know each other over time and discuss moving in together using a person-centered approach. People who choose life sharing typically do not want to live in a group home or own home and prefer to live with non-related caregivers who share their values, interests and personality characteristics. Information on how to choose life sharing can be found [here](#).



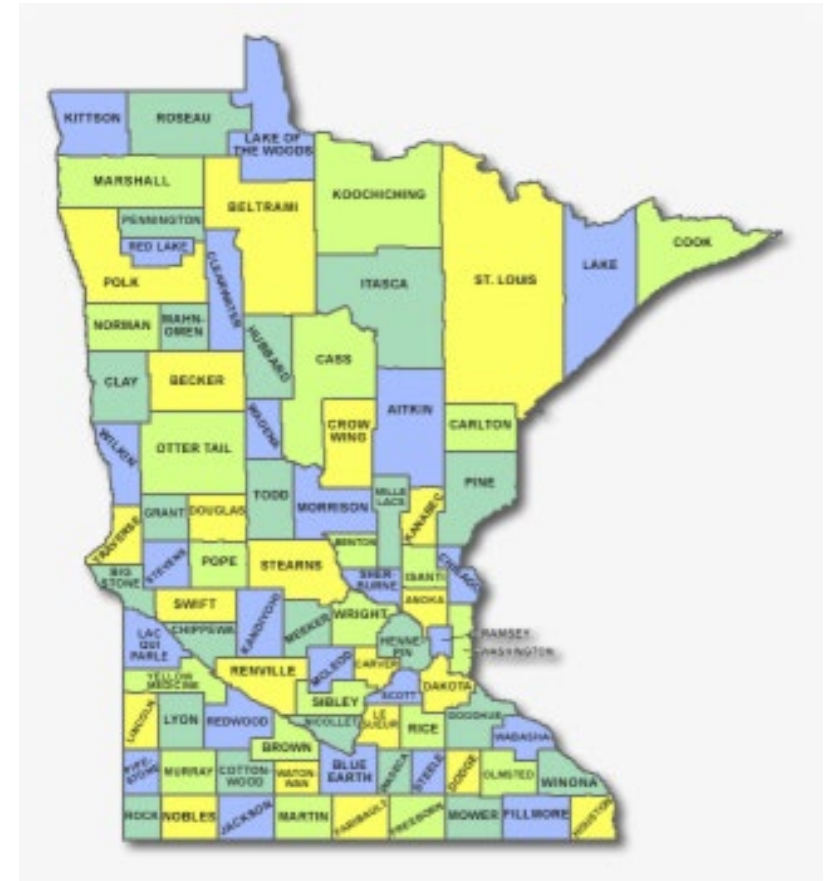
Life sharing guidance

- “Host home,” “shared living” and “life sharing” are all terms that refer to relationship-based living arrangements. These terms are interchangeable, but dhs has chosen to use the term “life sharing” to describe the matching process and living arrangement.
- Currently, life sharing is not a formal waiver service. The [resource page](#) includes information about how lead agencies, providers and interested individuals/families can use existing disability waiver services to create life-sharing arrangements.

Life sharing county perspective

What are the benefits of life sharing?

- More consistency
- Living in a family home with people they want to be with
- It's more personal and comfortable; it feels like a home, not just a house
- Your space feels more like your own.
- You have better relationships; you share your life with an individual/family vs. staff who may be strangers
- You feel more cared about
- Overall quality of life is improved/better



How is life sharing different from similar arrangements and services?

- Life sharing matches an adult age 18 or older who has a disability with an individual or family who will share their life, experiences, relationships and home, and also support the person using person-centered practices.
- In this arrangement, the individual/family owns or rents the home, and the county/tribal nation licenses the physical home.
- The individual/family does **not** need to enroll as a Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) provider with a 245D license. Instead, the individual/family works with a life-sharing agency that offers consistent quality oversight of the arrangement and manages all 245D license compliance matters specific to the person's support plan.
- Families who need support related to 245D matters. They just want to have a relationship and share their home.

Who is eligible?

Adults who are enrolled in the following waivers:

- Brain Injury (BI)
- Community Alternative Care (CAC)
- Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI)
- Developmental Disabilities (DD)

Who provides life sharing?

Life-sharing includes three main people/entities with complementary roles, responsibilities and functions:

- Person who receives disability waiver services and is interested in being matched with a life-sharing individual/family
- Life-sharing agency that provides matching, ongoing support, and third-party billing and is a 245D-licensed provider
- Individual/family who provides support to the person in individual/family's home and has a home that is licensed for no more than two people by the county/tribal nation.

Life-sharing agency requirements

- Have a 245D license and be enrolled and authorized to provide family training and counseling and family residential services
- Complete the DHS Vulnerable Adults Mandated Training
- Complete a two-day person-centered thinking training within the past year
- Have a valid driver's license and automobile insurance if transporting the person
- Not have direct or indirect financial interest in the property or housing the person is shown
- Not match more than two people who receive services with an individual/family
- Help the individual/family with the process of licensing the physical home with the county/tribal nation
- Administer the family residential services daily rate to the individual/family by obtaining a service agreement from the lead agency (see the authorization section).

Phases of Life Sharing

Matching and planning the move



Matching perspective by Derrick Dufresne



[YouTube video: Matching perspective by Derrick Dufresne](#)

Matching and planning the move

- The life-sharing agency and lead agency facilitate a process to match the person with an individual/family based on shared preferences, interests, personality styles, responsibilities, mutual agreements, relationships, etc.
- The matching process includes face-to-face meetings between the person and individual/family. The meetings should happen in a variety of places and be based on the person's interests
- During the matching process, the life-sharing agency must use person-centered practices to develop a robust, person-centered plan to support both the person and individual/family. For more information, see [CBSM – Person-centered practices](#).

Matching and planning the move

- Life sharing matching can be a provider agency or individual that enrolls as a Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) provider.
- The life sharing provider that only provides matching does NOT need to have a 245D license but needs to be authorized to provide family training and counseling.

Matching and planning the move

The lead agency authorizes matching services from the life-sharing agency through family training and counseling using HCPC code **S5110 U2**.

Family training and counseling is a **market rate service**. Rates for this service should reflect the market costs and guidance on CBSM – Market rate services. To authorize this service, the lead agency should follow the instructions on CBSM – Family training and counseling.

The life-sharing agency:

- Helps the person and their team understand lease agreements
- Works with the person and the individual/family to draft and facilitate any needed agreements to have a successful living arrangement
- Helps the person find resources to move their belongings, if needed.

On-going support from the life-sharing agency

- All aspects of [Minn. Stat. §245D.081](#) apply to life-sharing arrangements.
- The individual/family contracts with a life-sharing agency to ensure proper support and oversight of the person receiving services. These supports can include, but are not limited to:
 - Program management and oversight, including evaluation of quality and improvement for services the individual/family provides
 - Coordination of back-up support, when appropriate
 - Daily documentation
 - Support for using person-centered practice
 - Explanation of rights and responsibilities.

Family residential services

- The life-sharing agency (245d provider) receives the full family residential services (FRS) rate. Then, the life-sharing agency keeps the portion of the rate for the ongoing support it provides (as negotiated with the individual/family) and distributes the remaining amount to the individual/family for the support they provide

On-going support from the life-sharing agency

The lead agency authorizes ongoing support from the life-sharing agency through family residential services (frs).

Lead agencies will use hcpc code **S5140 UC U2** for frs- life sharing.

Phases of life sharing

Other on-going support services

- Own home
- Caregiver living expense
- Family foster care (frs 245D enrolled provider)

Life Sharing and the future

What's next?

- Communication plan and launch/enrollment
- Developing a life sharing coalition
- Life sharing event

Additional Resources

Additional resources

[The Arc of Minnesota – Housing access services](#)

[Housing Stabilization Services](#)

[CBSM – Transitional services \(BI, CAC, CADI, DD\)](#)

[CBSM – Waiver/AC reimbursement for unforeseen circumstances](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health – Health care provider directory](#)

Additional Resources

Additional resources

[Moving Home Minnesota Program Manual](#)

[My Move Plan Summary, DHS-3936 \(PDF\)](#) (For more information, see [CBSM – My Move Plan Summary](#))

[Person-Centered, Informed Choice and Transition Protocol, DHS-3825 \(PDF\)](#) (For more information, see [CBSM – Person-Centered, Informed Choice and Transition Protocol](#))

[Matching support – Michael Smull \(video\)](#)

Contact Information

Contact Information:

Scott Schifsky scott.schifsky@state.mn.us 651.802.9870