

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is homesharing?

Homesharing is a living arrangement where two or more unrelated people share a home to their mutual benefit. Homeshare is more than a roommate finder. No two homesharing arrangements are alike, each arrangement is unique and based upon the needs, interests and lifestyles of the individuals involved. It provides a rewarding housing option to people of all ages.

2. How does it work?

In a homesharing arrangement, each person has his/her own bedroom, but shares the home's common areas, such as the kitchen and living room. A **HomeProvider** is a homeowner(s) who is 55 years or over who wants to share his/her home with another, unrelated individual. The home must be owner occupied and within Larimer County. A **HomeSeeker** is a person(s) (no more than 2 people) who is 18 years or older and looking to move into the home of another. HomeProviders can arrange a regular rental agreement or exchange services for all or a portion of the rent.

Neighbor to Neighbor helps participants find a housemate who will positively impact their lives, but ultimately the decision to live together rests entirely with the HomeProvider and HomeSeeker.

3. How much is the rent?

The key to HomeShare is that the arrangement is beneficial to both parties - and that includes affordable rent. Every situation is different because the HomeProvider establishes what rent will be, whether a deposit will be required and if utilities are included or split.

4. What is a service exchange?

Another benefit available in a homesharing arrangement is a service exchange. A service exchange can involve non-medical/non-personal care such as helping with meals, shopping, cleaning, companionship and doing errands. Each service arrangement is different and based on the needs and desires of the HomeProvider.

5. Are there any fees?

Neighbor to Neighbor charges a fee of \$25.50 to help cover the cost of running background checks. A sliding fee scale is available for those in need.

6. What makes for a successful candidate?

A successful candidate is someone who has a degree of emotional stability that allows them to be interested and involved in developing and maintaining a positive relationship with the housemate. Successful candidates also possess patience, a willingness to be flexible and a somewhat stable current housing situation because HomeShare is not an emergency housing solution. The matching process is a careful and time-consuming endeavor. It is also important that individuals can care for

themselves as HomeShare is not a Home Care arrangement. Participants need to be able to self-advocate and assume full responsibility for every step of the HomeShare application process.

Homesharing is a unique housing solution and may not be a good fit for everyone. Neighbor to Neighbor encourages you to think deeply about whether this type of housing situation will work for you.

7. What are the benefits of Homesharing?

Homesharing provides companionship and security for both HomeProvider and HomeSeeker in an atmosphere that truly feels like home. Homesharing also provides both parties the opportunity to help one another. HomeProviders can continue living in their home, while offering a more affordable housing option to a HomeSeeker.

8. How long does it take?

Our goal is to promote suitable, mutually beneficial HomeShare arrangements. In our experience, hurried matches do not last. We believe in taking time on the front end to discern the right fit.

We cannot offer any referrals until applicants have been interviewed and screened. Once referrals are offered, it can take time to arrange to meet and then establish a mutual living agreement. At minimum, the process can take 4-6 weeks if appropriate potential match referrals are available. We cannot guarantee a HomeShare placement.

9. What about a lease?

If HomeProvider and HomeSeeker decide they want to live together, the HomeShare Coordinator will help develop a Living Agreement to outline the expectations and rules of living together. This Living Agreement is not a lease. We do not provide a lease, but we highly encourage HomeProviders and HomeSeekers to utilize a lease in addition to the Living Agreement. We can help HomeProviders access lease templates if they do not already have a lease and they would like to use one.

10. What is Neighbor to Neighbor's role?

Neighbor to Neighbor interviews, screens, and runs background checks on all applicants to identify appropriate potential match referrals. We work with participants throughout the process of finding the right match. We assist in the development of a Living Agreement (not a lease) and can offer supportive resources and referrals after a match is made. All decisions regarding choosing a housemate are up to participants, Neighbor to Neighbor is not part of that decision.

11. How do I apply for HomeShare?

To begin the process, visit n2n.org/homeshare and complete the online application. If you have additional questions or need assistance filling out the application over the phone, please call us at **(970) 372-2005** to speak with one of our HomeShare Coordinators.