



Home Sharing Program FAQs

HIP Housing's non-profit Home Sharing Program connects Home Providers who have a bedroom or separate unit available with Home Seekers who pay rent or exchange extra household chores for reduced rent. Home sharing is a creative solution to help our community's housing challenges.

Home Sharing clients

Home Providers must live in San Mateo County. Persons seeking housing must either live, work or attend school in San Mateo County, or have a housing voucher for the County, and be of a family size of 1 or 2 persons.

Benefits of Home Sharing for Home Providers

Empty space is put to good use while the extra income can be put toward utilities, other household needs, or personal expenses. Having someone else in the home can increase security, companionship, and, mutual assistance.

Benefits of Home Sharing for Home Seekers

Home Sharing reduces financial stress by sharing housing and utility costs while also alleviates traffic congestion by keeping workers and San Mateo County residents local.

What happens during and after the interview?

- Applicants meet with a Home Sharing coordinator to complete an application and interview.
- A questionnaire is completed to describe personal characteristics, and other factors regarding living with others.
- HIP Housing provides housemate referrals and clients follow-up with them using an interviewing guide.
- The number of referrals given depends on rent range, smoking, pets, location, etc.

What information is requested for the interview?

Proof of identification; three-character references; and proof of income (which is kept confidential).

How is a Home Sharing match arranged?

Clients are able to interview and screen potential housemates, check each other's references, and make their own decision about who they want to share with.

How does HIP Housing help?

People may not consider home sharing as an option due to privacy or safety concerns, compatibility issues, or a negative experience they found on their own. With the experienced guidance offered by HIP Housing, our Home Sharing team provides support to help make a successful home sharing match. Client resources include: guidance on how to interview and check references of a potential housemate; Inventory checklist; completion of a Living Together Agreement; and, long-term follow up support.

How do County employees and retirees apply to the Home Sharing Program?

Contact Laura Moya, Home Sharing Specialist, at 650-348-6660 x 326 or lmoya@hiphousing.org. Interviews can take place in one of HIP Housing's four offices, at a County office location, or in the residence of the Home Provider. Assistance in Spanish, Tagalog, and Mandarin/Cantonese is offered.

For more information:

Visit www.hiphousing.org or the [Benefits](#) website

Home sharing makes a difference in our community!