For more information about the South Dakota Shared Living program and opportunities, please contact the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD):

Division of Developmental Disabilities
Department of Human Services
3800 East Hwy 34, Hillsview Properties Plaza
c/o 500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3438
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http://dhs.sd.gov/developmentaldisabilities

Department of Human Services
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Shared living is an arrangement of services provided in the private home of a participant, or a family, in which care is provided to a participant. Shared Living is meant to provide a more person centered approach to supports that are offered to a participant where the participant and the selected provider share a life.

Shared living is really built on the foundation of life sharing, developing natural supports, and being an active member of the community. The host home provider/companion shall provide services, including assistance, support, and guidance in life domain areas such as daily living, safety and security, community living, healthy lifestyle, social interactions, spirituality, citizenship and advocacy.

Shared living can take several different forms from the participant living in the home of the host home provider to a companion living in the participant’s home in order to provide support. Companions and host home providers are very diverse and can include college students, families, single people, couples, and empty nesters. The shared living provider can be anyone over the age of 18 who wants to share a life and provide supports to a person with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (IDD). Up to two participants can be supported by a shared living provider at any given time.

Shared living is an option for any person with a disability who is interested in this type of living environment and is eligible for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) through the Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities. When considering shared living, the participant and their Individualized Service Plan (ISP) team should discuss what a good life for the participant looks like, what they don’t want, their support needs, and current and needed life experiences. This is a great opportunity for the ISP team to use the Life Trajectory Worksheet found at Lifecoursetools.com.

**Benefits of Shared Living:**

- Participants have greater access to individualized person centered supports in a more home like environment.
- Participants have more opportunities to develop natural supports and be active members of the communities where they live.
- Participants have more consistency and stability in the supports that are provided and who provides them. There is an extensive matching process between the participant and the companion/host home to ensure a quality pairing.
- Provider agencies can address staff turnover and the number of open positions within an agency. With shared living, the participant is living in a private home where there is one person providing support. There is no need for multiple shifts with multiple staff.
- Provider agencies can reduce their overhead without needing to provide a separate location for residential services.