

Home Sharing Program FAQ

HIP Housing's no cost Home Sharing Program matches households who have a room or an accessory dwelling unit to rent in San Mateo County (Home Providers) with individuals (Home Seekers) who are seeking a place to live. Home Seekers pay rent or exchange household chores for reduced rent. Home Sharing is a creative solution to address our community's housing challenges.

Home Sharing Program Requirements

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

Benefits for Home Providers

Home sharing enables Home Providers to save money and put extra income towards housing or other personal expenses. Having a housemate can increase your sense of security, potential for companionship, and help you maintain independence.

Benefits for Home Seekers

Home Sharing helps Home Seekers save money, reduce debt, and keep their housing costs affordable. It also helps alleviate traffic congestion by keeping workers and San Mateo County residents local.

How does HIP Housing help?

With the guidance offered by our Home Sharing team, we help make a successful home sharing match. Client support includes: 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.

People may have concerns regarding a negative experience with a previous housemate, about their privacy, safety, or compatibility, but HIP Housing provides one-on-one support to help clients create a positive home sharing experience.



How is a Home Sharing match arranged?

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

What information is needed for the interview?

Proof of identification, three non-related references and, Home Seekers' proof of income (which is kept confidential).

What happens during and after the interview?

Applicants meet with a Home Sharing coordinator to complete an application and a questionnaire to describe their lifestyle characteristics and ideal home share.

Once an applicant is accepted to the program, a Home Sharing Coordinator searches for housemate referrals based on rent range, location, and other lifestyle characteristics. Clients follow-up with each other using an interviewing guide and make their own decision about a housemate.

How do I apply to the Home Sharing Program?

Contact us at 650-348-6660 or hiphousing.org. We offer services via video conference and limited in-person interviews. Assistance in Spanish, Tagalog, and Mandarin/Cantonese, upon