



1. Who are the individuals referred to Lifesharing?

They are mostly adults and some children who have a primary diagnosis of intellectual disabilities and want to live in a family-type environment. Although one or two individuals may live with a Lifesharing family, individuals are matched one person at a time. Like all of us, individuals have varying needs and abilities. The most important factor is how the individual will fit into your family.

2. How long does it take until someone comes to live with me?

The length of time varies for each person and family. Once someone has been identified as a potential match, the average time is 3-to-5 months; however, there is no set time frame. We want to give enough time for a relationship to develop between the individual and the Lifesharing family, so they can make a mutual decision to share life together.

3. What is the process of becoming a Lifesharing family?

Upon initial contact with us, an invitation to attend one of our Lifesharing presentations and informational materials will be mailed to you. After the presentation, you can take an application packet to complete. Once your completed paperwork is received, we will review your application, check your references, schedule a home study to get to know you and your family, and do a walk-through inspection of your home to ensure general safety and that our licensing requirements are met. More importantly, we will meet with you and your family to determine what kind of person will be a good fit for you. When a potential match has been identified we will schedule several home visits for the individual with your family prior to final placement. Visits include an initial "meet & greet" day, overnight, weekend, and weekday visits. While visits are occurring, you will receive ongoing training, support, and team collaboration with our support staff.

4. What are the requirements to be a Lifesharing family?

- Child abuse and criminal checks for everyone age 18 or older in the household
- FBI clearances for those who have lived in Pennsylvania for less than 2 years
- Physicals for all household members
- 24 hours of training for the Lifesharing provider
- Personal, professional, and employment reference checks
- Insurance: homeowner's or renter's and car (if applicable)
- Time to foster a Lifesharing relationship
- Patience with the process

5. What is expected of a Lifesharing family?

- Provide a safe, nurturing, healthy home environment
- Open your heart and share your life
- Provide stability and support
- Meet the needs of the individual as stated in his or her Individual Support Plan (ISP)
- Comply with policies, procedures, and regulations of the agency, county, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

6. What kind of support can I expect from KenCrest?

- 24 hour on-call support
- Ongoing free training
- Team support to help you be successful in Lifesharing
- Financial support in the form of a monthly tax-exempt stipend
- Up to 30 days of respite care within a year, so that families and individuals can spend time apart, if needed

7. What are the benefits of being a Lifesharing Provider?

You will make a positive impact in someone's life AND your life will be positively impacted!

Lifesharing gives you the opportunity to expand your friendship and family circle, allowing you to experience the gifts and talent of others while sharing yours!