

# Host Home Information

## Quality Living Options

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The following information is to help answer some questions about becoming a host home provider. Please contact Juli Wenning at 303-462-6560 for more information.

### **What is an independent Contractor?**

An independent contractor, hereafter referred to as a Host Home Provider (HHP), is an individual contracted to provide supervision, support and/or personal care to a person with a developmental disability. Quality Living Options (QLO) primarily serves people with developmental disabilities, but has provided for others who may also be challenged by mental health issues. The Host Home model was designed during a period of “de-institutionalization” when people with disabilities were being encouraged to consider alternatives to living in large institutions that were much like hospitals, staffed in shifts and supervised by nurses. Life was lived almost entirely on the grounds of the facility making contact with the community at large infrequent. To achieve the most “normalized” living for those who needed assistance in daily living, the QLO host home program was developed. It has been a significant improvement in the lives of those with special needs.

It is important to point out that Host Home Provider is under contract with QLO. The provider is paid a stipend, which is specified in the contract along with the responsibilities of both QLO and the Provider. QLO will closely monitor the care of the individual and observe whether or not the responsibilities stated within the contract are being fulfilled. If there is any concern, the Host Home Provider will be presented with the specific problem and a plan of resolution will be developed.

### **Disclosure**

Becoming a Host Home Provider means opening your home and your life to many outside influences. By accepting an individual into your life, you are also inviting the concern of the individual’s family, professional team, friends and community members.

Also know that we need to be made aware of any changes in your household, particularly when someone moves into or out of the home, be it a relative, friend, foster child or an individual from another agency. Changes such as these may affect the individual and therefore the viability of the placement, so it is in everyone’s best interest for you to notify us when they are anticipated.

### **24 Hour Supervision**

It states in your contract with QLO that you are expected to provide supervision and support to the individual as outlined in the Service Plan. For some individuals, making sure they are safe means being with them or near them, able to hear them at any moment and respond

immediately, day or night. For others, you being outside in the yard while the individual is inside alone is acceptable. Still others may be able to spend time independently while you run to the store for some milk. In a nutshell, each individual's needs are different, and so is the level of supervision. Therefore, supervision levels are determined by assessments and recorded in the Service Plan developed by the team. The provider is then responsible for maintaining the level of supervision specified in the Service Plan.

### **Environmental Considerations**

Because QLO is responsible for the safety and well-being of each individual under its care, there are factors in the home environment that are of interest to the agency. The general expectation is that the environment be clean, safe, and comfortable. Therefore, certain conditions may need to be met in order to begin or maintain a placement. HUD inspections are done prior to each placement and annually thereafter. All homes must meet city ordinances.

In the development of a placement, every attempt is made to match providers and individuals in order to create a successful placement.

**Cleanliness:** The cleanliness of your home is a subject that is important to discuss, as it is difficult to assess. Beyond the basics of compliance with HUD inspection, everyone has a different opinion about how clean a house should be, and what aspects of cleaning are most important. Some people can't stand cluttered countertops but seldom clean the floors. Others leave all sorts of stuff lying around, but vacuum every day. It is impossible for QLO to develop a standard of cleanliness to which every provider must adhere. Therefore any judgment regarding cleanliness of your home that is not covered in the HUD expectations will be made relative to the welfare of the individual for whom you have taken on the responsibility of care and treatment.

Hopefully, care has been taken to match your lifestyle with that of the individual, so that compatibility in your housekeeping habits has been achieved already. Be aware that it is the Program Manager's responsibility to address the cleanliness issues with you. It is understood that this may be uncomfortable, but the quality of care may necessitate such discussions.

1. **Safety:** Safety is another matter of consideration in determining the appropriateness of the environment of the individual's needs. The home should be well maintained, and everything the individual uses should be in good working order. Walkways should be unobstructed and suit the person's ability to move about. Sometimes adaptations are needed, such as grab bars, railings, or ramps; if so they should be installed in a timely manner.

2. **Comfort:** The individual should be able to enjoy an environment that meets his or her level of comfort. This may mean turning up the heat, turning down the music, or whatever is important to that particular person.

### **Financial Responsibility**

As you already know, you will be paid a stipend in accordance with your contract for the care of the individual that QLO has placed in your home. Out of this stipend, you are expected to provide for the individual's basic needs such as food and shelter. Medicaid, Medicare, or personal insurance most often covers medical expenses; co-payments can be covered out of the individual's personal needs. However, you will be responsible for paying co-payments for any over-the-counter medications that are not covered by insurance, such as vitamins, laxatives, cough syrup, aspirin etc. as these over-the-counter medication co-payments are included in your daily rate.

Sometimes the individual's day program may ask that you send in a small amount of money daily or weekly for a regular outing where meals would be included. This can be paid for by the individual you serve. You will not need to pay for expenses such as assistive technology or larger recreational expenses like a bike or a pass to an athletic club. Recreational expenses such as admissions to events or supplies for special interests or hobbies would be considered the individual's responsibility. It should be understood that if the person's wages/income cannot cover the expense items that would enhance his or her quality of life, then you would need to work with the team to explore options and assist the person in acquiring them.

Please remember that the individual living with you is striving for the same quality of life that you would desire. Just supplying food is not enough; it should be a source of enjoyment as well as good health. Clothing, which can be purchased with personal needs funds or wages, should be up to date, appropriate to the person's age, and should promote the person's image as a valued and accepted community member.