



# Collegiate Homesharing

## FOR HOME PROVIDERS Shared Housing Services

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[www.sharedhousingservices.org](http://www.sharedhousingservices.org)

**The Collegiate Homesharing Program (CHS)** offers Tacoma residents the opportunity to help local college students obtain affordable housing by utilizing that 'spare room' in their home. This program offers housemate matches based on lifestyles and personalities.

### CHS IS AN INNOVATIVE RESOURCE FOR A MASSIVE PROBLEM:

Students often grapple with the rising costs of living, tuition and meeting basic needs. This can create barriers that undermine their ability to academically succeed. Shared Housing Services has begun a partnership with local colleges to provide students with safe, stable, and affordable housing to assist in their ability to pursue their educational goals.

### WHAT IS HOMESHARING?

**CHS** is a safe, low-cost screening and referral service that processes applications, completes background checks, and builds compatibility profiles for qualified Home Providers (those who wish to rent out rooms in their house in exchange for an agreed level of support such as assistance with household tasks and/or a financial exchange) with qualified Home Seekers (college students needing affordable housing). The Collegiate Homesharing program benefits Home Providers and College Students by facilitating a home share situation that is mutually helpful to each side. It's a win-win!

### WHO IS SHARED HOUSING SERVICES?

Shared Housing Services is a non-discriminatory, equal opportunity 501(c)(3) non-profit, serving Tacoma and Pierce County since 1991. Our programs promote diversity, equity and inclusiveness while aiming to reduce and prevent homelessness through creating a culture of sharing resources for the good of the community as a whole.

### HOW DO I QUALIFY?

**Home Providers** must meet the following conditions to qualify:

- Have a spare bedroom(s) in your home to rent out in exchange for rendered services and/or rent.
- Complete an application, background check (\$25 fee), and a home visit conducted by Shared Housing Services.
- Provide a valid ID/Passport and an original Social Security card.

### 5 EASY STEPS:

**Step 1: Complete an online application** located on the Shared Housing website: [www.sharedhousingservices.org](http://www.sharedhousingservices.org).

**Step 2: Complete the criminal background check.**

Background checks are completed at Shared Housing Services' office and must be done within 30 days of submitting the application. Valid ID and an original Social Security Card are needed to complete the background check at the cost of \$30. An income verification is need for all seekers in addition to the items indicated above.

**Step 3:** Once the background check comes back cleared Shared Housing Services will conduct an intake on all Home Providers/Home Seekers to determine needs, requirements and compatibility of lifestyles to begin the home share referral process.

**Step 4:** When a referral is made, the Home Provider and Home Seeker begin a dialogue to get to know each other.

**Step 5:** If a home share match is made, the Home Provider and Home Seeker negotiate their living arrangements and document the negotiated arrangements on a Homesharing Agreement form provided by Shared Housing Services.



# Collegiate Homesharing FAQs for Home Providers

## How long does it take?

The application process including the application, background check, and intake takes a minimum of seven days. Referrals for potential home share matches are criteria-based, and is dependent on the needs of both the Home Provider and the Home Seeker as well as the availability of homes with open rooms.

**Is Homesharing safe?** For over 27 years, Shared Housing Services' Adult Homesharing program has been providing safe, comfortable, and beneficial home share situations throughout Pierce County. Conducting multi-state criminal background checks and one-on-one, in-person interviews allow for proper vetting and referring of potential home sharers and is much safer than answering a listing online or an ad in the newspaper.

## Do I have to own my own home to be a Home Provider?

Shared Housing Services does not require that a Home Provider own their home to participate in the Collegiate Homesharing program. If you are renting your home or live in an apartment you will need to contact your landlord or property management company to inquire if a sublet form needs to be completed.

## I can only commit to short-term housing, can I still help?

Absolutely! If you would like to provide short-term or emergency/transitional housing, please contact the Shared Housing Services' office for additional information.

## Who determines the rent?

All arrangements, financial and/or rendered services are negotiated between the Home Provider and the Home Seeker based on the individual needs of each party.

## Can Home Providers have a spouse, partner, other roommates or other family members living in the home?

Yes, but each person, over the age of 18, that lives in the home will need to complete a separate background check form before referrals can be made.

**What if the referral for a home share situation seems it WON'T be a good fit?** The referral is just an introduction for a home share situation based off submitted criteria to be mutually beneficial to both sides. If a Provider/Seeker does not feel safe or comfortable with each other, they can ask to receive another referral. If another referral is not available at that time, you will be placed on the active list to wait for a new referral when one becomes available.

**What if I experience a problem while sharing a home?** If you experience a conflict with the person you are home sharing with, contact the Shared Housing Services' office for guidance and possible conflict resolutions.

**Have room to spare?**

Apply to become a Home Provider:  
[www.sharedhousingservices.org](http://www.sharedhousingservices.org)



For additional questions about the Colligate Homesharing program contact: Shared Housing Services at [shstacomapc@harboret.com](mailto:shstacomapc@harboret.com) Or by phone at (253) 272-1532

