



Arc Guide to Housing Options

There are a variety of housing options available to people with disabilities. Funding options, levels of support and eligibility criteria for the different programs vary. See the Arc Guide on the Process of Finding Housing for further information. The following are some of the most commonly utilized housing options.

Adult Foster Care - Up to five people can reside in an adult foster care home. This service provides room, meals and supervision. Adult foster care homes are licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and can be either family adult foster care or corporate adult foster care. In family adult foster care, the person who holds the license lives in the home and provides most of the care. In corporate foster care, staff hired by the license holder typically provide most of the care. Bedrooms in an adult foster care home are shared or private, and bathrooms and living spaces are shared.

Board and Lodge - Board and lodge provides sleeping accommodations and meals to five or more adults for lengths of one or more weeks. The Minnesota Department of Health and local health departments license these facilities. Rooms and bathrooms can be private or shared with common living areas. Some board and lodges offer services including housekeeping, laundry, assistance with bathing, and/or medication administration.

Boarding Care - The Minnesota Department of Health licenses boarding care homes for people with disabilities who need minimal nursing care. Boarding care homes provide personal care and related services for five or more adults. Bedrooms are private or shared and have a private or attached bathroom, with common living areas.

Family Home - Individuals and their families may agree that the person with disabilities will remain in the family home. A variety of services such as Personal Care Assistance, Developmental Disabilities Waiver, Consumer Support Grants, and Semi-Independent Living Services may be available to individuals choosing to live at home.

Home Ownership - Individuals or groups may choose to purchase residential property. This may be funded by income, Social Security benefits, trusts, etc. Staffing is based on individual needs and funded through a variety of options including Personal Care Assistance programs, Developmental Disability waivers, and Consumer Support Grants.

Intermediate Care Facility - This form of housing is generally for individuals who require 24-hour supervision. Typically, this setting is for six or more people and includes room, meals and support staff.

Rental Housing - Property rental options include Section 8 housing, project-based housing and public housing. Section 8 is a federally-funded program that helps low-income households by

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having them pay a limited percentage of their income for rent rather than market rates. Project-based units are privately owned and managed rental units for low-income households. Public housing reserves a certain number of units for people with disabilities. Housing can also be obtained at market rate.

Semi-Independent Living Services (SILS) - This service is an option for people who are able to be independent with minimal staff support and supervision. The physical home and related costs are not included in this service. This service is funded through a mix of county and state funds.

Supervised Living Services (SLS) - This form of housing, commonly known as a group home, can accommodate one to five individuals. Each person must have their own bedroom with shared common areas. SLS is a supervised living arrangement. Group Residential Housing (GRH) and Social Security benefits fund the room and board costs. The Developmental Disabilities waiver can fund the staffing cost.

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