



What is Shared Housing?

Shared Housing is when a voucher holder rents a unit shared with roommates who are not part of the voucher-assisted household. Shared Housing can be with other voucher holders or with people without a voucher. A Shared Housing rental has private spaces (bedrooms, possibly other rooms) for each separate family and shared common spaces (kitchen, living room, etc.).

Examples:

- Two families share a 3-bedroom apartment. One family rents one bedroom with their voucher, the other rents the other bedrooms without a voucher, and both families share common living spaces.
- A group home where each individual roommate has their own voucher.

I want to rent a home with other people. Is that Shared Housing or do I add them to my voucher?

If you want to live in a rental unit with roommates where income and resources are not shared, you want to do Shared Housing. If you want to add someone to your voucher, you can request it if all household income and resources will be shared and available to meet everyone's needs or you can prove that you have lived together previously.

I'm interested in Shared Housing. What is different about Shared Housing that I should know?

- **With Shared Housing, maximum rents are different (typically lower) than our Estimated Maximum Unit Rent chart.** If you have found or are looking for a Shared Housing unit, contact your Specialist to see if it meets affordability limits.
- **The *entire* unit must be inspected and meet Housing Quality Standards, including private spaces used exclusively by roommates.** Your roommate(s) must make their room(s) available for any scheduled inspections and all rooms must be unlocked when the inspector is there.
- **The owner must be willing to have a separate lease for each separate household.**
- **Unexpected and unwanted changes to your living situation may occur.** You may realize after moving in that you do not want to live with your roommate(s) but must wait to move until your lease ends. If a roommate moves out, people that you do not know or want to live with may move in. If the owner can't rent out the empty rooms, they may want you to

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sign a new lease for the entire unit, which could be unaffordable even with voucher assistance.

- **Rents must be divided evenly between all bedrooms**, regardless of the size or condition of different bedrooms. The owner cannot charge different amounts for different rooms.

I'm considering adding someone to my household. What might I need to know before I add them?

- **Rent portions and voucher size may change.** The new family member's income and assets will be included in calculating your new family rent portion.
- **Written HASCO and landlord approval is required before an adult family member, foster child, foster adult, or Live-in Aide moves in.** For more info, see Renter Center at hasco.org.
- **If the family breaks up, the person you add could keep your voucher even if you are the Head of Household.** If a family cannot agree who will keep the voucher, HASCO must follow our Family Breakup policy and decide who will continue to receive housing assistance. If HASCO assigns the voucher to your family member, you would no longer have housing assistance.

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