

Shared Living Arrangements Frequently Asked Questions



➔ Who is Living Innovations in Rhode Island?

Living Innovations provides support to people of all ages and abilities to have a good life at home and in the community.

Since 1996, Living Innovations has supported people with diverse needs and currently serves more than 160 people throughout Rhode Island. A service of Mosaic, Living Innovations is part of a nonprofit, whole-person healthcare network across 12 states in more than 750 communities providing supports to around 5,000 people.

➔ What is a Shared Living Arrangement (SLA)?

Offering a highly-personalized alternative to group or congregate living settings, an SLA is a 24/7 residential service that supports someone with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) in a fully-qualified care provider's home.



➔ Why are SLAs a better 24/7 residential support option versus a traditional group or congregate home setting?

An SLA provides the most personalized level of 24/7 care. It is a one-on-one support service in which the provider helps the person with IDD become an active member of the household and his or her community. The provider also helps the individual with daily activities such as meals, transportation and personal care.

Importantly, there is growing evidence* shared living support best improves the overall health and quality of life for people with IDD.

➔ Why are SLAs through Living Innovations in Rhode Island unique?

As the largest provider of SLAs in Rhode Island, Living Innovations has successfully offered SLAs—and only SLAs—longer than any other IDD service provider in the state.

Also at Living Innovations, matching the person with IDD to the shared living provider is a key component, therefore including him or her in the selection process is extremely important. The organization's SLAs are specifically tailored to each person's needs, wants and desires. This empowers them to make choices and live a good life at home and in their communities as independently as possible.

*Friedman, C. (2021). *Choosing Home: The Impact of Choosing Where to Live on People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' Emergency Department Utilization.*



➔ What if the “match” doesn’t work?

Sometimes, despite the careful matching process and everyone’s best efforts, an SLA might not work for one or both people. If that becomes the case, Living Innovations will work closely with all involved to find another shared living provider.

➔ How does Living Innovations ensure a safe and stable environment for people it supports living in SLAs?

The state requires all potential SLA home providers to pass an in-depth screening and approval process, which includes a background criminal check and a national criminal investigation check. Because Living Innovations also seeks loving providers who match the specific needs and personality of the person with IDD, they often result in long-lasting relationships that provide stability of care.

After undergoing thoughtful and extensive person-centered training, Living Innovations SLA providers must keep daily documentation that demonstrates they’re following the person’s Individual Support Plan (ISP). What’s more, Living Innovations staff make monthly or more visits to provider homes and offer immediate, 24/7 support to providers to answer any questions they may have and help them solve any challenges.



➔ Will I still be a part of my loved one’s life?

The answer is “YES!” and even more so! While you no longer have to be the caregiver, you still get to be the loving, proud family member while you watch your loved one grow and experience new independence.

➔ How does shared living differ from foster care?

In foster care, a child is taken from a home and moved to a home of a relative or foster care provider; the child has no choice where he or she wants to live. Shared Living is an informed decision made by at least two adults to live together.

How do I learn more about SLAs?

For more information on Shared Living services from Living Innovations in Rhode Island or if you are interested in becoming a provider, scan this code or visit LivingInnovations.com/rhode-island-shared-living.



Living Innovations in Rhode Island | LivingInnovations.com
535 Centerville Road, Suite P, Warwick, RI 02886
Joanne Malise | 401.732.0304 | jmalise@livinginnovations.com