

## Shared Living Program

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Shared Living Home Provider. You are about to take the first step toward determining whether sharing your life with an adult with a developmental disability is something that is truly right for you. This program has the potential to significantly enrich the lives of all who participate, but it will also mean big changes for you and your family, so we have designed the application process to help you decide if this is the right choice for you.

Enclosed is an application that must be completed thoroughly. Please mail the completed application to my attention at the address below. In addition to the completed application, you and each adult (over age 18) member of your household must submit an original copy of a recent BCI (criminal background) check from the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General. You can obtain this document from the Attorney General's Office at 150 South Main Street in Providence. You will need a driver's license or photo identification card that includes your date of birth. The fee is \$5.00, check or money order, no cash. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30-4:30. Please note that the Trudeau Center will not begin to process your application until we have received the BCI certificates for all adult members of your household.

While this may seem like a cumbersome process, it is necessary to ensure that we are making good, safe decisions about new living arrangements for the adults we support. Once it has been determined that you and your family meet the basic safety qualifications, we will get into the fun part; learning about who you are, how you live, and who might make a mutually enjoyable and compatible addition to your household.

I am also enclosing a copy of the housing standards checklist that we will eventually use to ensure that your home meets basic safety standards. This can serve as a guide for you to determine whether you need to install additional smoke detectors, purchase a fire extinguisher, etc.

Once your application and BCI clearances have been received, your references will be checked, and a home visit will be scheduled to begin to get to know you and your family. At that time we will schedule any pre-service training that may be required as well as begin to introduce you to individuals who may be a good match for your

family. Introductions will be informal opportunities to meet someone with no pressure or expectation that you will be matched. If both sides feel a connection, then another meeting will be pursued. We will work together until ultimately we find just the right person to live with your family. At that time, you will be asked to enter into a contract with The Trudeau Center where you agree to support the individual in your home for one year. The contract is renewable annually as long as all parties agree it is a good situation for all involved. Respite and case management supports are available through the Trudeau Center to ensure that you are able to have a break and have the support you need to respond to any situations or challenges that may arise.

This is a lot of information, and many people have questions. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time, for any reason to discuss any of this, or to ask any other questions you may have. This is an exciting new program that offers wonderful opportunities to many Rhode Islanders. Again, thank you for your interest, and I look forward to working with you!

Very Truly Yours,

Maya Colantuono  
Coordinator of Shared Living and Self-Directed Services