

Housemates – Finding and Keeping Them

The term housemate describes someone who shares a home with you (or the person you support) but has their own bedroom. Having a housemate or housemates can be beneficial and welcome for many people who are interested in moving to a home of their own.

There are a variety of different options when considering who could be your housemate: somebody else labeled with a disability, someone not labeled with a disability, somebody who is paid or otherwise compensated to provide support to you. People often consider friends, acquaintances, romantic partners, paid support people, or family members as potential housemates.

Developing a housemate ad is often the best way to share with others about what you are looking for in a housemate. Different regions have different resources available, so we suggest getting in touch with your local DSO Housing Navigator to explore what email lists, social media sites or other places might be best for sharing your ad.

Housemate ads should have some basic information, but we suggest making them as unique as you or the person you are supporting is! It can really spark potential housemates to get in touch when they learn more about you and they relate to the information you have included in your ad. A brief sentence or two often doesn't share enough information to generate much interest, especially if you are looking for a housemate that might share support or be a friend to you or the person you are supporting.

Below are some links and resources that were shared in the module. Also included are links to some online roommate finders, which are available in some regions of Canada and might be helpful to review.

Module Related Tools and Resources

1. Step 1: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit-step-1>
2. My housing and support plan: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-housing-and-support-plan>
3. My relationship circle: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing-toolkit/my-relationship-circle>
4. Housemate partnership agreement: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemates-Partnership-Agreement-Fillable.PDF>
5. Housemate compatibility profiles
 - In My Own Words: <https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile-In-My-Own-Words.DOC>
 - My Interests, Skills and Habits Checklist: https://www.dsontario.ca/assets/images/banners/Housemate-Compatibility-Profile_My-Interests-Skills-Habits-Checklist.docx

Online Tools and Resources

- Roomies.ca - free peer to peer platform which allows you to create and view ads and communicate with others looking for a housemate: <https://www.roomies.ca/>
- Roomiematch.com – has free and paid options and provides support with finding a housemate using a Q&A survey which go through a human review: <https://www.roomiematch.com/>

DSO Tools Resources

1. Find your area DSO: <https://www.dsontario.ca/find-your-dso>
2. What is DSO housing navigation: <https://www.dsontario.ca/housing>
3. Find your local DSO Housing Navigator:
<https://www.dsontario.ca/housing/welcome-to-the-dso-housing-toolkit/dso-housing-navigators-contact-list>
4. Events Calendar: <https://www.dsontario.ca/calendar/>

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