

FAQ's

Home Provider FAQ's

What is Home Providing?

As a Home Provider, you would be offering one or more empty bedrooms in your home to be available to Home Seekers in our program. You will be responsible for interviewing referred Home Seekers, negotiating monthly rent/utility costs and services being rendered, and setting household rules and expectations for the homesharing match. AM staff is available to assist you with all of these steps.

What is the process for becoming a Home Provider?

As a Home Provider, you will start the process by completing the Home Provider application [here](#). The application includes rental history, income and budget, and preferences such as compatibility and ideal living situation.

Upon receiving your application, an AM staff member will contact you to make an appointment for completing the background check, touring the home, and discussing your needs, and your expectations for a housemate. Once these steps are completed, we will look for compatible Home Seekers for referral.

What should I charge for rent?

Home Providers decide the monthly rent being charged based on the size and amenities of the home and if any services/assistance are to be rendered by the Home Seeker. We are available to assist you in determining all these variables.

Is there an option for reducing rent in exchange for assistance around my home?

Yes! If you chose to do so, you may offer discounted or free rent in return for housing needs assistance from your matched Home Seeker such as: transportation, light house cleaning, running errands, yard work, light caregiving, and more. If you are interested in offering reduced rent for housing needs assistance you can indicate that in your Home Provider application.

Does the Home Seeker need to go on my lease?

At times the Home Seeker may need to be added onto your lease if you live in an apartment or are currently renting a home. We would recommend you check with your landlord on this as we do require written notice from the landlord authorizing the renting of your extra bedroom.

All Home Providers and Seekers must complete a Homesharing Agreement Form when the match is entered into. This form lists the agreed rent, expectations of assistance if applicable, house rules, terms of termination, etc. for both parties during the homesharing match. A copy of the Homesharing Agreement Form will be kept on file at Associated Ministries.

Is offering a room to a Home Seeker a safe practice?

To assure the safety of everyone in the Homesharing process, all Home Providers and Seekers go through a background check and an interview process before becoming active in our system.

Is there a cost to become a Home Provider?

The only cost for our services is the cost of the background check which is currently \$30.00.

How long does it take to make a Homesharing Match?

Matches can take anywhere from a few weeks to many months. All referrals for a homesharing match are based on the needs and criteria of both the Home Provider and the Home Seeker to ensure that a match is compatible and beneficial to all parties involved. The number of referrals of potential housemates depends on a number of factors: services/assistance being asked for, amount of rent being requested, location, pets, smoking and other personal preferences. At Associated Ministries we do our best to accommodate the needs of each applicant, but given the multiple variables requested by home sharers, we are in no position to guarantee a homesharing match for everyone.

What if I don't like the person after we are living together?

A policy for ending the arrangement will be outlined in your homesharing agreement (AM will assist you with this part of the Homesharing Agreement Form). If one home sharer wants to end the arrangement, it can be dissolved according to the agreed upon terms. However, participants are encouraged to try to work through their differences and AM staff will work with both parties during this process.

Home Seeker FAQ's

What is Home Seeking?

Home Seeking is the step of the Homesharing process of seeking affordable housing in the Pierce County area. As a Home Seeker you will be matched with a Home Provider who has the capacity to rent one or more rooms in their home for an affordable pricing.

What is the process for Becoming a Home Seeker?

The process starts by filling out the Home Seeker application [here](#). The application includes income and budget, transportation needs, household needs, and preferences such as compatibility and ideal living situation. Upon receiving your application, an AM staff member will contact you to make an appointment for completing a background check at our office in Tacoma. After your background check has been submitted and approved (about 48 – 72 hours), an intake appointment will be made to discuss your needs and your expectations for a homesharing situation. At that point, we will look for compatible Home Providers for referral.

What will my rent be?

Home Providers set the monthly rent, and while rents vary, currently the average price for a room is \$550 a month. We will explore what you can comfortably afford based on your income and personal expenses at the intake meeting.

Is there an option for reduced or free rent?

Occasionally, some Home Providers may offer reduced rent based on asking for assistance with ongoing housing needs such as: transportation, light house cleaning, running errands, yard work, light caregiving, and more. If you are able and interested in providing assistance with housing needs for reduced rent you may indicate that on your Home Seeker application.

Do I need to sign a lease?

At times you may need to be added onto the Home Provider's lease if they live in an apartment or are currently renting a home. We ask all Home Providers who are renters to provide a letter from their landlord allowing them to rent their extra bedroom.

All Home Providers and Home Seekers will complete a Homesharing Agreement Form when the match is entered into. This form lists the agreed rent, expectations of assistance if applicable, house rules, etc. for both the Home Provider and Home Seeker during the homesharing match. A copy of the Homesharing Agreement Form will be kept on file at Associated Ministries.

Is renting a room from a Home Provider a safe practice?

To assure the safety of everyone in the Homesharing process, all Home Seekers and Providers go through a background check and an interview process before becoming active in our system. AM staff also conduct a home visit for all Home Providers to confirm health and safety conditions of a home.

Is there a cost to become a Home Seeker?

The only cost for our services is the cost of the background check which is currently \$30.00.

How long does it take to make a Homesharing Match?

Matches can take anywhere from a few weeks to many months. All referrals for a homesharing match are based on the needs and criteria of both the Home Seeker and Provider to ensure a match is compatible and beneficial to all parties involved. Referrals of potential housemates depends on a number of factors: amount of rent a Home Provider is asking, services/assistance being offered for reduced rent, location, pets, smoking and other personal preferences. At Associated Ministries we do our best to accommodate the needs of each applicant, but given the multiple variables requested by home sharers, we are in no position to guarantee a homesharing match for everyone. If you require emergency housing, you should look into other options while applying to our homesharing programs.

How long does the typical match last?

The duration of matches vary, but the average length of a match is just over two years. If both parties are satisfied with the match and circumstances do not change for either side, matches can last for many years, forming lifelong friendships.

What if I don't like the person after we are living together?

A policy for ending the arrangement will be outlined in your homesharing agreement (AM will assist you with this part of the Homesharing Agreement Form). If one home sharer wants to end the arrangement, it can be dissolved according to the agreed upon terms. However, participants are encouraged to try to work through their differences and AM staff will work with both parties during this process.