

## What if I want (or need) a roommate?

Because of historic systemic practices, the first step when seeking for a roommate is to check your thinking regarding what is possible for people with disabilities. The Supported Living: Making the Difference Initiative sponsored by the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) and the NC Money Follows the Person Initiative (NCMFP) partnered extensively with Lynn Seagle, Executive Director of Hope House Foundation in Norfolk, Virginia. Under Lynne's leadership, Hope House is internationally known for supporting people with disabilities in their own homes. Listen to [Lynne's TEDx Talk in Hampton Roads, VA](#), to be inspired and to check your thinking.

People with disabilities do not have to live with other people that have disabilities. People with disabilities may live with anyone they choose. The key is ensuring that the person with disabilities has the service /support they need to be complete tasks of daily living. In some circumstances, one roommate agrees to provide support to the other roommate in exchange for paying a lesser share of the rent.

Many people choose to live with other people for financial reasons. Sometimes people have many things in common with their roommates. Other times, people only interact with their roommates in passing or when using shared spaces in the home. The common theme is that expenses for the home are shared and each person living in the home has full tenancy rights. The best situations have written roommate agreements. This resource document is designed to inform decisions related to roommate agreements: [Developing Roommate Agreements under the NC Innovations Wavier Supported Living Service Definition](#)

Ohio has developed an electronic roommate agreement form that may be used by anyone that will be sharing a residence with another person. Completing the electronic form creates document that each party may sign. The first step in creating in the form is to select the state where you reside and then choose create form. The resource is available at the following link: [Roommate Agreement Electronic Form.](#)