

FindMyRoommate Information Sheet October 2009

In a time of growing emphasis on self-determination but shrinking resources, it is especially important that people with disabilities have mechanisms for locating compatible housing arrangements where their needs and preferences can be met, and in many cases where resources can also be shared. That is, roommates may be able to share both paid and natural supports, as well as to support each other directly, in a location and with people of their own choosing.

FindMyRoommate seeks to match people with the best possible living arrangement and supports. The service is available to state disability agencies or other state or regional organizations on an annual subscription basis. Users can either post a description of a home they would like to share or list themselves as people looking for a home or apartment to share. The posting of listings can be done by independent individuals – people with disabilities, family members, friends, and advocates – and by service providers and case managers. No personal identification like names and street addresses are allowed in the postings. Instead, people can explore a potential match via the private **FindMyRoommates** message system.

State-by-State Adaptability

The features can be customized for each state to reflect that state's goals.

- Do you want to restrict who can post listings? We can adjust the settings to accommodate state preferences.
- If you want to organize the matching process by districts within your state, you can use existing case management districts, or define districts however you want. You just provide a map of your districts and we will do the rest.
- States vary in the terminology used in their social services systems – you can adjust the terminology and the explanatory text to meet your needs.

Program Specifics

Anyone can view the listings on **FindMyRoommate**. However, they cannot make contact except via our message system. Access to the message system requires registration, or “sign-up”. Likewise, one must sign up in order to post a listing.

When people describe themselves as a “person with a disability” during the sign up process, they are then asked whether they have a case manager. If the answer is yes, then an email will go to the case manager asking them to also sign up (if they have not already done so), and then they will be linked to the individual's registration so they know that FindMyRoommate is being used and also be copied on any correspondence through the message center.

The same protection is offered via guardians if the person identifies themselves as having a guardian.

Individuals with disabilities can also designate a support person if they do not have a case manager or guardian. In that case, the friend, family member, or advocate will be sent copies of all correspondence relating to the roommate search.

A user registers in their home case management region, but can post in any region in the state. There are two types of postings: “searchers” and “seekers”. Searchers have a home that they want to share. Seekers are looking for someone who has a home to share with them. It is also possible for seekers to team up and look for housing together.

A powerful search function can find a match based on key information in the listing. No identifying details like names and street addresses are contained in a listing.

Fees

To subscribe, a state or regional agency pays an enrollment fee to cover initial set up, customization, and training. Thereafter, an annual maintenance fee covers on-going operations, updating, and site improvements.

	Enrollment Fee	Annual Maintenance Fee
States over 10 million population	\$9,800	\$2,800
States from 2-10 million population	\$7,800	\$2,800
States up to 2 million population	\$5,800	\$2,800
Case Management Regions*	\$3,800	\$1,600

*Three regional subscriptions can subscribe the entire state.

To register now for a free Webinar tour of FindMyRoommate, send an email message to roommates@thearclink.org or call us toll-free at 866-928-3090.