Choosing the best home or residential setting is a difficult and emotional process. There is always a balance between the need to keep our loved ones safe and the need to help them flourish as a member of their community. This process requires that everyone involved consider the needs of the individual; their strengths, preferences, and support needs.

Who can help me through this process? Your Supports Coordinator can assist you and your family through this process.

What are my options for living in the community? There are several options available for receiving support where you live. Each depends on the needs of the individual seeking support. Choices are:

- **Living with a relative** – no support is needed from the Intellectual Disabilities system.
- **Living in your own home or apartment** - a couple hours a week of support can be provided to individuals to assist in money management, cooking skills and managing medical and other necessary appointments. Families and friends are also encouraged to offer support as well.
- **Living in your own home or apartment with support from family, friends and/or the ID system (also called Residential Habilitation/Unlicensed)** – Unlicensed Residential Habilitation services are provided by Direct Support Professionals on a rotating basis. Individuals live in apartments or homes operated by a provider agency. Families are encouraged to continue to play an active role in the life of the individual. Services include:
  - Less than 30 hours of staff support each week
  - Assistance to attend medical appointments, a job and to participate in the community
  - Support in money management
  - Support in completing managing meals and other home management services
- **Community group home** - Support in a community home is customized to the needs of the person. Direct Support Professionals provide support on a rotating basis. Families
are encouraged to continue to play an active role in the life of the individual. Services include:

- 24 hour staff supervision/7 days a week
- Coordination of educational, vocational, medical, mental health, social and financial services
- Coordination of transportation and recreational activities

- Lifesharing through Family Living – Lifesharing, sometimes called Family Living, means living with and sharing life with supportive persons who form a caring household. It is an opportunity for someone with an intellectual disability to share a home with a family or person to whom they are not related.
- Reverse Lifesharing – A person receiving ID services owns their home. Direct Support Professionals move into the person’s home and provide needed support.

Who is eligible for Community Living Services? Any person eligible for Intellectual Disability services and enrolled in the Consolidated Waiver (Community group home/Residential Habilitation-Unlicensed). In addition, you must have an assessment indicating that supports are needed for you to live in the community.

What are some important discuss points as I plan for community living services? It is important to think about where you want to live and how much support you need on a daily or weekly basis. You will be encouraged to visit different settings to learn about the options that are available in Dauphin County. As you visit, consider the following:

- How will staff be trained to meet my needs?
- How quickly does this process take?
- What if I say no?
- Will I have any costs?
- Do I get to pick my room?
- If I need to live with someone else, do I get to pick my housemates?
- If I need to room with someone else, do I get to pick my roommate?
- How often can my family visit?
- Who will manage my medical and other appointments?
- What are some common routines?
- Who would I call if I am concerned about my care after I move in?
- How does the Dauphin County Intellectual Disabilities program know that I am getting quality service

Contact your Supports Coordinator for additional information and to learn about the providers in Dauphin County. You can also find additional information at [www.odpconsulting.net/topic-info/lifesharing-everyday-living-options/](http://www.odpconsulting.net/topic-info/lifesharing-everyday-living-options/).

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