

GRHomeShare is a program of New Development which creates greater access to affordable housing by matching homeowners with housing seekers to develop mutually beneficial relationships, support senior homeowners, and providing opportunities for affordable rental options.

## Who can GRHomeShare benefit?

- Homeowners struggling with the physical and/or financial maintenance of their home
- Renters struggling with the rising cost of housing in Grand Rapids
- Seniors searching for a greater sense of community engagement, access, or personal connection.
- Individuals looking for a chance to build a healthy relationship and support system with a housemate.
- Individuals looking for support, guidance, and safety in the search for the right housemate.

## Terminology:

**Seeker** – Clients searching for affordable rental housing through homesharing. Seekers may reduce their rent through completion of agreed upon household maintenance and support tasks like cleaning, gardening, cooking, or errands. Seekers may be individuals or families.

**Provider** – Existing homeowners who open their homes to a seeker in exchange for financial support, household help, companionship or security. Providers are often, but not always, over the age of 55 and may be individuals or families looking to share their home.

**Match** – The pairing of one provider with one or more seekers mutual benefit of all.

## Eligibility Requirements

- GRHomeShare is open to applicants of all income levels.
- Providers must be existing, live-in homeowners.
- One member of each GRHomeShare match must be over the age of 55. This may be either the seeker or provider.
- GRHomeShare completes background, property, credit and reference checks on all applicants. The GRHomeShare does not accept any applicant subject to lifetime sex offender registry requirements or who has been convicted of the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of methamphetamines or heroin. Other prior convictions will be weighed according to age, relevancy, and severity.

## Client Process

1. Phase 1 Application (Eligibility)
  - a. \$25.00 Application Fee
  - b. Applicants submit a standard application allowing us to complete background, credit, property, and reference checks for the safety and comfort of all our clients.
2. Phase 2 Interview/Home Visit (Compatibility)
  - a. Applicants join our team of trained social workers and staff for an interview to explore applicant needs, preferences and lifestyle.
3. Guided Match
  - a. Client considers a selection of candidate profiles to find the best possible fit
  - b. Income Based Match Fee
4. Maintenance
  - a. GRHomeShare offers mediation and support to guide the match through its initial transition.

Connect with GRHomeShare:  
[info@newdevelopmentcorp.org](mailto:info@newdevelopmentcorp.org)

616.361.7500  
Or on Facebook



## Frequently Asked Questions

Is homesharing safe?

Yes. Safety is our number one concern at GRHomeShare and we recognize that living with someone new is always an act of trust. All participants in GRHomeShare undergo a background check, credit check, and reference check, and providers undergo a property check as well.

What services can a seeker help with?

Anything except personal care. A seeker might help with basic household chores, provide transportation to homeowners who no longer drive, cook meals, run errands, or help with any other support task specified by the homeowner. Services are built into the match's rental agreement and allow the seeker to reduce their rent. Seekers cannot help with personal care such as bathroom or personal hygiene help.

How much of my home will be shared?

We ask that homeowners open a private bedroom, and some common spaces to their seeker to provide both privacy and a shared living experience for relationship building. Kitchens and living rooms are often shared. Bathrooms may be shared or the homeowner may offer a private seeker bathroom. Other areas of the house may be shared or private depending on the provider's preferences.

How is rent determined?

We ask that providers offer their space at a sub-market rent rate in order to support the needs of individuals struggling in Grand Rapid's competitive housing climate. Rent reduced on the basis of services offered as well. The final rental amount decided upon is negotiated between the seeker and provider with the help of a GRHomeShare arbiter. A sample rental agreement will be provided as a basis for rental agreement discussions. GRHomeShare requires a month-to-month lease be used for the first three months of any match in order to offer flexibility to both the seeker and provider.

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