



Dear HomeShare Seeker Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in ElderHelp's HomeShare Program. The purpose of the program is to help older adults remain independent in their homes by matching them with people looking for housing. It is an opportunity for individuals seeking housing to lower their housing costs while helping out an older adult.

In order to begin the process, please complete the **"Home Seeker Application"** and provide a copy of a valid photo I.D., such as your driver's license. Return your application using one of the following options:

❖ Mail to or drop-off at:

ElderHelp's Main Office: 3860 Calle Fortunada #101, San Diego, CA 92123
(*Business Hours:* Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm, Friday 8am-12pm)

❖ Fax to: 619-284-0214

Upon receipt, we will review your application for eligibility and suitability for the HomeShare Program. After we have reviewed your application, we will send a letter updating you on the status of your application. For that reason, *it is vital that you have a valid mailing address and telephone number so that we are able to contact you.*

Please note that if you are accepted into the program, finding a suitable match may take time, and is not guaranteed. We strongly encourage you to pursue other housing options in addition to the HomeShare Program.

For any inquiries about the program and the process, **please read the entire "Home Seeker Information" packet before you contact us.** The information you are looking for may be included in the packet. If you still have questions once you've read the *entire packet*, please call 619-284-9281.

If you are in immediate need of shelter, please call 2-1-1 San Diego or the County of San Diego (800-510-2020) for information about shelters, transitional housing, low rent and subsidized senior apartments.

Sincerely,

ElderHelp's HomeShare Team

HomeShare: *Frequently Asked Questions*

How long does the enrollment process take? Following your interview, it usually takes about 10-12 business days to complete the process. The timing varies greatly depending on how long it takes to get back reference, physician and background checks. Please let your references and doctor know that we'll be contacting them regarding your application with the HomeShare Program.

How long will it take to find me housing once I am enrolled? Once you are enrolled and begin connecting with available home providers (potential roommates), you may find housing as quickly as the same week you meet. Some people match quickly, and sometimes it takes a few weeks or months. Others never find the right situation within the program. It all depends on you, your specific needs and preferences, as well as the availability of home providers who fit your criteria.

Do you have a lot of people who are looking for a housemate? We receive over 150 inquiries each month from people interested in learning more about shared housing. Your special needs and preferences will determine whether or not you are a good fit for available home providers.

How much rent will I have to pay? The average rent at this time is about \$650/month, and you may be asked to pay a security deposit, share utilities and/or cable and internet services. Rents and other charges are usually negotiable between the parties. We can help to facilitate these conversations.

How long does a match usually last? The average length of a match is about 2 years. Some matches last longer, and some may end sooner. Although there is no set rule, HomeShare is meant to provide permanent housing lasting over 1 year. Our longest match lasted nearly 13 years.

Can I get a rent free room? Rent free rooms are sometimes available; however, it is likely that you will be asked to pay some rent, even if you are providing services. There is a high demand for rent free rooms, and availability is determined by the personal preference of the home provider.

What kinds of services do people usually ask for? Services such as housekeeping, meal preparation, transportation, companionship, and light yard work are the most commonly asked for. HomeShare is not a caregiving service and you should not be asked to (or provide) hands on care of any kind.

What if the match doesn't work out? Can you find me another place? You are encouraged to choose carefully and follow our guidelines to help ensure a successful match. However, re-matching is an option if you're in good standing with the program, and another suitable match exists.

Can I bring my pet? You may bring your pet along with you as long as the home provider agrees to allow pets.

**HomeShare Program
Home Seeker Application**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____

Have you applied for, or been enrolled in, the ElderHelp HomeShare Program before? Yes No

If yes, were you denied admittance into the program? Yes No

If yes, were you matched with a provider? Yes No

Are you seeking housing for yourself and someone else? Yes No

If yes, please list the name(s) and age(s) of additional persons: _____

What is your total monthly income? \$ _____ per month.

What is the maximum amount of rent you can afford to pay? \$ _____ per month.

What is the source of your income?

Employment Social Security SSI SSDI VA Pension

Other: _____

So that ElderHelp may better serve you and other San Diegans, please answer the following (3) demographic questions:

Are you Homeless? Yes No

Are you on the Section 8 waiting list? Yes No

Are you receiving a Section 8 voucher? Yes No

Do you smoke? Yes No

If yes, do you: smoke inside, outside, or both (please circle)?

Do you drink? Yes No

If yes, do you: drink frequently, occasionally, or rarely (please circle)?

Do you have pets? Yes No

If yes, please list number and type of pet(s): _____

Are you currently being treated by a physician, psychiatrist or therapist? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you currently taking any medications? Yes No

If yes, please explain what the medications are for: _____

Have you ever been evicted? Yes No

If yes, please give brief explanation of the circumstances: _____

Have you ever been arrested? Yes No

If yes, please explain when and why you were arrested: _____

Have you ever been convicted of any felonies or misdemeanors? Yes No

If yes, please give a brief explanation of the circumstances: _____

Do you have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? Yes No

If yes, how long have you been clean & sober? _____

If yes, are you a participant in a sobriety program? Yes No

Can your sponsor attest to your sobriety? Yes No

What services, if any, might you be able to provide as a HomeShare participant (check all that apply)?

Transportation Cooking Housekeeping Laundry Errands

Yardwork Handyman Companionship Pet Care

Med. reminders Other services: _____

What would your availability be for providing services through HomeShare (check all that apply)?

Mornings Afternoons Evenings Overnights Weekdays Weekends

Describe your typical schedule/routine (check all that apply):

I follow a schedule Home often Gone often Work p/t Work f/t Don't work

What types of housing would you be willing to live in (check all that apply)?

House Manufac. Home Apartment Condo Senior complex

What areas of San Diego would you be willing to live in (check all that apply)?

North SD South SD Coastal SD Central SD East SD Specific:

If specific, please list neighborhoods you are interested in: _____

Describe your housing preferences (check all that apply):

Furnished Unfurnished Private bath Cable Internet Storage

Access to public transportation (PT) Wheelchair access

If access to (PT) is needed, indicate the maximum # of blocks you are able to walk: _____

Receipt of ElderHelp HomeShare Program Information

By signing below, you consent to the following statement: I have received the *HomeShare Program Home Seeker Information* packet outlining the current HomeShare Program policies. I have either read it, or had it read to me carefully. I agree that I will maintain and abide by all HomeShare policies while participating in the HomeShare Program. I understand that this document has been prepared for the information/guidance of all HomeShare participants. It is intended to cover the policies and conduct most often applied to HomeShare activities. I accept that, with time, the information will change as these policies are under constant review. I understand that I will be notified in writing of any such changes.

Signature: _____ Date: _____