

OHIO SHARED LIVING

Sharing home.

Ohio Shared Living (OSL) caregivers support people with developmental disabilities in a home setting.

OSL is a long-term commitment to sharing a home, helping with daily routines, and building relationships that last a lifetime.

Being a caregiver is a full-time commitment; however, caregivers can still work outside the home full-time, and respite programs are available to support caregivers and households.

OSL caregivers are paid to provide hands-on care and supportive services. Caregivers coordinate or facilitate the services outlined in a service plan. That can include things like cooking meals, providing transportation, and planning activities during the day.

Who Can Become an OSL Caregiver

A caregiver can be anyone providing live-in care for a person with developmental disabilities as needed. Parents cannot be OSL caregivers for their minor children, and OSL caregivers cannot provide services for their spouse. All OSL caregivers receive a background check and are carefully screened.

Training and support for billing or reporting may be available through a provider agency.

See how it works by watching real stories at dodd.ohio.gov.

Learn more about the program in your area by contacting OSL provider agencies or the county board of developmental disabilities.



Sharing a home invites meaningful, lasting relationships



Training, support, and financial compensation are available for live-in caregivers



Caregivers can be family or another person who provides live-in support



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

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Live-in caregivers can provide support in their homes or in the home of the person accessing services. This could be the home of the family, the caregiver's home, or the legal residence of both the person receiving services and the caregiver.

OSL caregivers provide services directly to a person with a developmental disability. Caregivers can provide services as an independent provider or through a provider agency.

Because the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities prioritizes the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities and those who care for them, the department certifies both agency and independent providers of services.

New providers submit documentation, such as copies of birth certificates, social security cards, and high school diplomas or GED certificates to the department or to their provider agency.

All providers are required to undergo a background check through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

All providers must complete hands-on first aid and CPR training through the American Red Cross, and eight hours of direct service provider training for initial certification.

Learn more about provider certification requirements by visiting dodd.ohio.gov/providers.



All OSL providers must

- be at least 18 years old,
- have a valid social security number,
- be able to read, write, and understand English,
- and have a high school diploma or GED.

OSL caregivers who are independent providers

- are self-employed,
- are responsible for documenting and billing for services they provide,
- and are responsible for meeting certification requirements outlined in OAC 5123:2-2-01 (Provider Certification).

OSL caregivers who are employed by a provider agency

- may get assistance with administrative tasks, like service documentation and billing,
- may participate in caregiver support groups or additional training opportunities,
- and are responsible for and may be assisted by their agency in meeting certification requirements outlined in OAC 5123:2-2-01 (Provider Certification).

For more information, contact your county board of developmental disabilities or the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities at 1-800-617-6733, option 4.