

Purpose and Background

What is the purpose of this guide?

Living with a disability can mean needing help to live and work in a community.

This guide is for people with disabilities and their caregivers who live in or are thinking about moving to a place where they live full-time.

These places are called “*residential settings*.” A residential setting is a home, which could be an apartment, a house, or some other type of place, often with roommates, where people live and get support.

These places to live are run by agencies called *residential service providers*. With the persons who live there, the provider hires the staff, organizes the home, and offers support.

Homes can be different. And providers may have different ways of providing help.

The guide will help you:

- Find out if a residential service provider is a good choice for you
- Decide if a place is right for you

We have made two versions of a guide to help you decide. Choose the guide that works best for you.

The Long Version – This version has lots of details, questions to ask, and space to write notes. It helps you look closely at a service provider.

The Short Version – This version has big writing, pictures, and simple language. It includes 25 important questions to ask the provider.

Is this place right for me?

This guide helps you get ready to visit a home. It has questions and things to think about in 7 areas.

Read through the areas that are most important to you. You don't have to ask every question. Focus on the ones that help you decide if this is the right place for you.

Here are the 7 areas:

- 1. Living space**
- 2. Health and safety**
- 3. Support for positive behavior**
- 4. Activities with other people**
- 5. Communication between you, your family, and the provider**
- 6. Choices you can make**
- 7. Respect for all residents**