



## **SHARED HOUSING**

### **WOMEN'S RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER**

Shared Housing is a personalized service that matches those looking for a place to live with those who are looking to share their home or apartment. The program, as part of the Women's Rights Information Center located on Palisade Avenue in Englewood, has been in existence for many years, helping both young and old in Bergen County with their housing needs. Our mission is to match those individuals who are unable to afford the high cost of housing in Bergen County (seekers), with those who own or rent a home/apartment (providers), have an extra bedroom to spare, and would welcome having someone in their home to share the expense of running their home.

Both seekers and providers are interviewed and screened by the Shared Housing counselor. Topics regarding lifestyle, habits and expectations are discussed, along with what each party is looking for in a housemate. Additionally, the counselor visits each home to further guarantee a successful "match". Once a potential match is identified, the parties are introduced and the process begins, to determine if a compatible living together arrangement is possible.

There are no fees and the agreed upon match is entirely up to the seeker and provider.

In addition to reducing the financial burden of housing in Bergen County, some other advantages to sharing a home include: companionship, sharing chores, and the safety and security of having another person in the house.

A background search firm has recently partnered with the Shared Housing Program, and will conduct both criminal and credit checks on both seekers and providers, for an extremely reduced fee.

If both seeker and provider agree that they have a "good match", a "Living Together Agreement" is completed outlining the terms and conditions that are mutually agreed upon. The Shared Housing counselor is there through each step, including after the seeker moves in, to direct and guide both parties.

For further information, please contact:

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