



HOME SEEKER SELF-ASSESSMENT

To begin, examine your reasons for seeking housing in someone's apartment or home. If your financial situation is the driving reason, might you have expectations beyond financial relief? Consider your current expenses and determine how much you can afford to pay in rent and utilities. The more you have thought through your own needs and desires, the better you will be able to articulate those to a prospective householder. The result will be a more satisfying match. You can use this self-assessment as a starting point to create your own list of questions.

- 1) What are my financial resources?
 - a) What is the maximum amount I can afford for rent? For utilities?
 - b) Do I have the resources to pay for first and last month's rent and a security deposit if asked?
- 2) Consider your needs and desires, your must-haves and don't-wants.
 - a) What do you hope to gain by living with a Housemate?
 - i) Do you want to share meals?
 - ii) Would you want a Housemate who could provide transportation for you?
 - iii) Are you seeking a companion to share your interests?
 - iv) Do you want assistance with simple daily tasks and errands?
 - b) What do you specifically want in a shared home?
 - i) Do you need a location near public transportation?
 - ii) Do you want to live closer to family or friends?
 - iii) Must the residence provide easy accessibility, with few or no stairs, and with adequate space to move around in the common areas?
 - iv) Do you prefer or need a home where pets are not present or allowed?
 - v) Do you have a pet and need a home that will accept and welcome your companion?

- vi) Do you want the ability to play a musical instrument, listen to music, or watch TV in a common area?
 - vii) Are Broadband access, Cable TV and cell phone coverage all necessary?
 - c) What qualities will you look for in someone with whom you could share a home?
 - d) What qualities would be unacceptable to you?
- 3) What conditions are important to you in a shared home?
- a) Can you fit your belongings in a bedroom of sufficient size? Or do you need storage space in the home or on the property? Must your use of that space be included in the rent? Are you willing to pay extra?
 - b) Do you want a kitchen where you have full cooking privileges and easily store your food?
 - c) Do you need full access to laundry facilities?
 - d) Do you need room to park a car? Will a garage, driveway, or street be acceptable?
 - e) What level of activity and noise can you live with? Do you require daily peace and quiet or do you prefer an active, lively environment?
 - f) Do you want a room with lots of light or do you prefer a darker bedroom?
 - g) Is outdoor space, whether a yard, a garden or a deck important to you?
- 4) Think about your priorities and preferences in terms of personal and household cleanliness, neatness, noise, alcohol consumption, cigarettes, sensitivity to foods or fragrances. What would you consider a deal-breaker related to the home environment or your housemate?

OTHER NOTES