



# HOUSEHOLDER SELF-ASSESSMENT

To begin, examine your reasons for wanting to share your home and what you expect to gain from the arrangement. You will also need to determine what you are prepared to offer to a housemate and what you will charge in rent and other fees. You can use this self-assessment as a starting point to create your ad.

- 1) Consider why you want to share your home. Are you seeking supplemental income, social connection, or assistance with daily tasks and ongoing maintenance?
- 2) Consider your needs and desires:
  - a) What do you hope to gain by sharing your home?
    - 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 and need financially from your housemate?
    - i) Monthly rent amount \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii) Share of utilities \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii) Home service and maintenance costs, such as lawn service, housecleaning, or trash pickup \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv) Security deposit in addition to first and last months' rent? (We recommend you set up a separate savings account to hold the security and last month's rent.)
  - c) What qualities will you look for in someone who wants to share your home?
  - d) What qualities would be unacceptable to you?
- 3) What conditions must a Housemate agree to in order for you to share your home?
- 4) What do you have to offer to a prospective Housemate?
  - a) Which bedroom will you rent out and is it furnished or unfurnished?

- b) Will a separate bathroom be available to the Housemate or will you share a bathroom?
- c) Which common areas will be available to the Housemate and will any be restricted?
- d) Will you allow pets? If so, what kind and how many?

5) Unintended consequences

- a) If you collect rent, how will that affect any public benefits you might receive?
- b) If you rent your home, what will your landlord require in order for you to bring a roommate into your home?

**OTHER NOTES**