



# Q&As

## Home and Community Based Settings (HCBS)

March 2016

### Question: When honoring a person’s right to choose where they live, what is expected of providers?

#### Answer: As service coordinators and/or waiver providers you should ask and know whether people are:

- Happy and satisfied with where they live.
- Aware of their right to make an informed choice of where they live including type of living arrangement; rural area, suburban, or urban and the factors all people consider when we choose where to live.

These conversations and information learned should be documented and acted on through the person-centered planning process.

If the person is not happy with where they live, service coordinators and waiver service providers are expected to proactively work together with the person and their circle of support, through the person-centered planning process, to identify where the person would like to reside. This identification should include visits and other experiential learning to facilitate informed choice.

Then, the service coordinator and waiver service providers should help the person develop an action plan with the appropriate level of supports to work towards making the person’s vision of where they would like to live a reality.

#### Q. Is the residential provider required to offer single bedrooms?

**A.** No. The residential provider is not required to offer single bedrooms. However, if the person wants the option of a single bedroom, this should be addressed through the person-centered planning process and may include relocating to a private unit in a different residential setting such as the individual’s own home, family home or an apartment. Individuals may not arbitrarily block a residential provider from pursuing

CMS acknowledges that a person may need to share a room due to the financial means available to pay for room and board or may choose to share a room for other reasons.

However, when a room is shared, the individual should have a choice in roommate.

#### Documentation:

Person-centered plan documents such as the ISP and Habilitation Plans (and supporting documentation) should be used to show how choice was provided to and exercised by the person.

**People we support have the right to choose where they live, including the right to live in their own home or apartment, instead of a disability-specific setting like an OPWDD group home.**

any possible roommates. Instead, persons receiving services are encouraged to clearly articulate the characteristics of a welcomed roommate as the best means of facilitating the residential provider’s efforts to make suitable service offerings. Self-directed services and supports could also be an option.

This documentation includes the options considered by the person; how informed choice was provided such as through visits to other settings; and the choices and preferences of the person and how providers are working with the person to take steps to achieve their outcomes.



**Office for People With Developmental Disabilities**