



Host Home Frequently Asked Questions

What is a family host home?

AbleLight's Host Home program engages people who are willing to open their homes and hearts to help others, and carefully matches individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the best home for their needs. Through host homes, AbleLight helps children with intellectual and developmental disabilities find a supportive, family-like setting where they can gain independence and form strong, lasting friendships.

Why should I consider becoming a Host Home provider?

Host home arrangements are intended to provide a private home experience for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Home providers not only offer a residence, but give support, companionship, and opportunities for individual growth. In return, home providers enjoy the satisfaction of making a positive difference in another person's life, as well as a generous tax-free monthly stipend.

What supports are needed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

As a home provider, you will:

- Provide daily support for a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including assisting with medications, personal care, meals, medical appointments, shopping, transportation and more, just like you would any other member of your immediate family.
- Provide companionship.
- Facilitate participation in social, community and faith activities.
- Support routine medical care. Complex health needs are managed with nursing support.

What kind of Host Home providers is AbleLight looking for?

It all depends on what the child with a disability needs and is looking for, as well as the needs of the home provider. Children's ideal living situations vary, ranging from traditional families with children to couples to individuals. We work closely with you to find the best match for your home setting.

Will I be an employee of AbleLight?

No. Host home providers are independent contractors for AbleLight. The arrangement will be established through a legal contract between you and AbleLight.

Will I be eligible for benefits with AbleLight?

No. Independent contractors are not eligible to participate in AbleLight's employee benefits plans.

How long is the commitment to have someone living in my home?

AbleLight highly encourages long-term placements to provide stability for everyone involved.

Do I need to own my home to be a home provider?

No. As long as your home meets environmental requirements, determined through a home assessment, and is deemed a safe place for the child to live, you can either rent or own your home (house, townhouse, condo, apartment, mobile home).

Can I be employed outside of the home and still be a Host Home provider?

Yes. This will be evaluated during the placement process and circumstances will depend on the child being supported. The child in your home may be participating in outside employment and/or day programs, allowing you to work outside of the home during those hours.

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To learn more, call 920-206-4505 or go to [AbleLight.org/HostHome](https://www.ablelight.org/HostHome)

Can I contract with other agencies in addition to AbleLight?

Yes. As long as you do not exceed the maximum allowable number of people living in the home.

Can I have children in my home? How about pets?

Yes. During the matching process, the presence of children or pets in your home will be considered carefully with the needs of individuals needing a home. Some children will live well with other children and/or pets, while others may not.

Do I need to own a computer?

Yes. A computer is needed to provide the required reporting and paperwork on a monthly basis.

Do I need to provide furnishings in the bedroom for the individual I will support?

It depends on the child. Some children may have their own furnishings to bring into the home, while others may not.

What are the insurance requirements to be a home provider?

Home, Auto and General & Professional Liability insurance are required for all FHA providers. If the home is not owned, rental insurance is required. For more information about insurance coverage, please talk to AbleLight staff or refer to the AbleLight Independent Contractor Provider Agreement.

How do I become a Host Home Provider?

Once you've made the decision to explore becoming a provider, we work carefully with you to assess the opportunity. Following are the main steps in the process:

- Complete and submit an application
- Meet with local AbleLight employees for an interview discussion and to get answers to your questions
- Pass background check and home inspection
- Complete required training
- Participate in the matching process to find the best individual fit for your home

What is involved in the background check?

To ensure the children we support have the safest and best homes available, potential home providers go through a rigorous screening process. We will work with you to complete a criminal background check, as well as review your professional and personal references and work history.

Who in my home needs to have a background check?

For the safety of the children we support, we require background checks on all adults over the age of 18 in your home.

What training will I receive to prepare for being a Host Home provider?**What certifications are required?**

To ensure you have the knowledge and training you need, AbleLight will provide access to the training courses that are required by regulation and/or AbleLight. The types of training may include an AbleLight orientation session, first aid and CPR, medication administration and modules on specific topics such as safe driving and emergency preparedness. For a full list of training required in your area, please speak with a local AbleLight team member.

How does the matching process work?

AbleLight will work closely with you to pair you with a child that will thrive in your home. Your home situation will be compared to the needs of children looking for placement. Once a specific candidate is identified for your home, there will be an initial meet-and-greet, then several visits and an overnight stay to assess the fit. A match is made when you, the individual, and AbleLight agree after this process that the fit feels right.

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How much are Host Home providers paid for supporting children with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

Home providers are paid via a monthly tax-free stipend. The level of compensation depends on how much support is provided to the person living in the home and is determined through a combination of government guidelines and AbleLight's calculations.

What documentation and paperwork will I be responsible for?

Supporting the administrative and record-keeping needs for the individual in your home is an important responsibility, and includes requirements set by both your state and AbleLight.

Examples of documentation that will need to be gathered and reported periodically include but are not limited to: Individual Support Service Plans, Behavior Support Plans, Medication Administration Record and census information.

Who manages the child's finances and personal property?

As a Host Home provider, you will monitor the personal funds for the child in your home. This includes keeping and submitting receipts for his/her personal expenditures. In addition, you will maintain an inventory of personal belongings.

Why would children with intellectual and developmental disabilities need to live in a Host Home through AbleLight?

- Their current home no longer meets their needs or preferences.
- Homes they share with parents or other family members are no longer feasible.
- They are moving from another Host Home or group home because change is needed or desired.

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