



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

Residential Services

Individuals with Down syndrome and their families often explore possible changes in living arrangements as part of the transition to adulthood and the move toward greater independence. Not every person will want, need or be able to move from the family's home to more independent housing. Still, the question of where the individual will live must be addressed in planning. *Be prepared- finding a quality residential option for your child can be very difficult.*

Group Home –a house in which six people with intellectual disabilities live together. The property is usually owned and maintained by a provider agency. Shift staff provides 24-hour/day supervision. The following are types of group homes:

- **Private pay** -at a cost of approximately \$40,000+ per year
- **Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR)** - these are Medicaid funded. However, *no funding is available for new ICFMR slots, but an open ICFMR bed that already exists may be available.*

Home and Community-based Services (HCS) is the funding stream known as a Medicaid waiver program and is a combination of federal and state dollars. There is a 10-12 year waiting list for a slot. The slot belongs to the person with a disability and he/she can choose a provider from the numerous for-profit and non-profit agencies. The following are residential options which can be funded through an HCS slot:

- **HCS Home** – the house is operated (can be a rental) by the HCS provider agency. The residents pay room and board from their earnings or SSI check. The support services are paid at a reimbursement rate that varies, depending on the resident's "level of need."

There are two types of HCS homes:

1. **Residential support** – staff changes shift at least one time per day and at least one resident requires awake staff at night. No more than four people with intellectual disabilities can live together.
 2. **Supervised living** – no more than three people with intellectual disabilities can live together – none of whom require awake staff at night.
- **Supported Home Living** – a person with an intellectual disability lives in a house or apartment of his/her choosing. The number of hours/day of support staff depends on the resident's needs – a maximum of 20 hours/week and NO overnight supervision.
 - **Foster/Companion Care** - a person with a disability lives with a companion in the companion's home or the home of the person with a disability. The Foster/Companion Care provider may be a family member. No more than 3 people with disabilities may live with one Foster/Companion Care provider. The provider pay varies, depending on the client's "level of need."

Independent or Semi-independent Living Apartments– a complex of apartments or condos for individuals with intellectual disabilities who require minimal supervision. A private agency provides the support services, based on the person's individual needs. Funding is provided by private-pay or Medicaid-waiver program's Supported Home Living services (see above).

Residential Facility – a campus-like setting where 7 to 200+ people with intellectual disabilities live together with shift staff on the grounds 24 hours/day. The Texas State Schools are residential facilities but there are also private-pay residential facilities.