



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**

July 18, 2011

Dear Potential Respondents:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is soliciting information from all interested stakeholders and industry leaders to provide comments and feedback about Shared Living Services. Pennsylvania needs flexibility to bring innovation to its programs and greater choice to consumers. Programmatic and administrative flexibility will allow the commonwealth to design the most appropriate consumer-driven program. The information from this request for information will provide a framework that will drive participant choice, modernization, encourage best practices based on quality and prevention, and promote fiscal responsibility.

Pennsylvania has had a strong commitment to systems change and providing services in the most integrated settings possible. This request for information (RFI) is another step towards enhancing Pennsylvania's commitment to reducing dependence on institutional settings. Persons should not live in institution based settings for longer than is necessary based on lack of opportunities for personal care in small, homelike settings. It is also important to note historically long-term care services have been skewed towards high cost institutional based services.

Enhancing and Broadening a Shared Living Program in Pennsylvania will give more persons the opportunity to live in family based or small home settings.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Alexander, Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY