

Housing

What is the Supportive Housing Connection (SHC) Program?

The Supportive Housing Connection (SHC) is a partnership between the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and The NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) that is funded through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The SHC connects individuals with IDD to quality and affordable housing across the state, while also providing rental subsidies for individuals with IDD living in provider-managed housing or renting from private landlords.

There are 3 types of subsidies that the SHC administers, funded by the DDD:

- Tenant-based subsidies travel with the tenant from unit to unit within New Jersey.
- Project-based subsidies cover a specific housing unit for any tenant that qualifies and lives in that unit. When the tenant leaves the unit, the subsidy remains at that unit, NOT following the tenant to another housing unit should they move.
- Sponsor-based subsidies are linked to a specific support services provider's program. The subsidy is contingent upon the tenant receiving services from the specific program and remaining in the provider agency's service area.

The SHC determines the amount of the subsidy awarded, depending on the individual's income evaluation. The subsidy only covers a portion of the individual's rent, and does not include payment of needed services and supports.

In addition to distributing funds for housing subsidies, the SHC also provides:

- Landlord outreach and training
- Rental and other housing assistance
- Unit referrals and inspections to ensure safe and suitable housing for occupancy
- Resident inquiry resolution services

Who is eligible for SHC Housing?

To apply for a SHC Housing voucher an individual must:

- Meet the functional criteria for DDD eligibility
- Have current and active Medicaid
- Have a current [NJ Comprehensive Assessment Tool \(NJ CAT\)](#)
- Have an assigned support coordinator

Applicants who may qualify for a SHC Housing voucher include:

- Individuals with existing housing instability
- Individuals receiving or planning to receive services from the Supports Program
- Individuals enrolled in the Community Care Waiver (CCW) who are self directing their services in an unlicensed residential setting
- Individuals on the CCW waiting list who have been reached in the current fiscal year

How does one apply for SHC Housing Subsidy?

If interested in applying for SHC housing subsidy, the individual should speak with their support coordinator, who will then:

- Complete and submit the DDD Housing Subsidy Program Eligibility Determination Form to the DDD's Housing Subsidy Unit
- Once approved, refer the individual to SHC

A DDD Housing Subsidy Unit Staff will contact approved individuals about next steps and will guide them through the process.

The Leasing Process Timeline & Check-List

1. SHC accepts the application and the individual finds a unit
 - a. The individual has 90 days after receiving their SHC Welcome Package to find a unit. The service provider may assist in locating a unit, but there is an additional tool called The NJ Housing Resource Center where the individual can browse listings of affordable units throughout the state in an interactive [database](#).
2. SHC inspects the unit
3. Unit passes inspection
4. SHC performs an income review and collects the signed Tenant's Rental Subsidy Agreement, the executed lease, and all income documents
5. SHC informs individual of their expected contribution to rent and the subsidy's contribution
6. Move-in!

Important Contacts

- For determining eligibility, contact the DDD Housing Subsidy Unit
Email: DDD.HousingSubsidy@dhs.nj.gov
Phone: 732-968-4222
- For the SHC application process and finding a unit, contact the Supporting Housing Connection
Email: SHC-CustomerService@dca.nj.gov
Phone: 844-216-6988
- For additional assistance finding a housing unit, contact The New Jersey Housing Resource Center
Website: <https://nj.gov/njhrc/>
Phone: 1-877-428-8844

What is the State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP)?

The State Rental Assistance Program is a state-funded program under the NJ Department of Community Affairs. SRAP provides housing subsidies to low-income New Jersey residents that are elderly, experiencing homeless, or have a disability. The NJ Department of Community Affairs defines the eligible population as follows:

Elderly: The Head of household must be 62 years of age or over.

Family: The Head of household is 18 years of age or an emancipated minor; with or without children.

Disabled: The Head of household or Spouse must be permanently disabled.

Homeless: A household who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

To apply for SRAP, the individual will complete a pre-application, which can be submitted ONLINE with the use of a personal computer, laptop, smart phone, or tablet by going on-line at <https://www.WaitlistCheck.com/NJ559>

Submission of a SRAP pre-application does not guarantee placement on any of the waiting list, eligibility, or an offer of a SRAP Voucher. Only 4,000 pre-applications are accepted on a computerized selection (lottery) basis. After being selected, an individual will be on the SRAP waiting list for placement and preferences will be sorted.

For more information on the program, application process, and eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/srap.html>

What is an Independent Living Services (ILS) Program?

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) provide living services for people with disabilities to ensure equal opportunity to choose their lifestyle and participate in the community. Many CILs are funded through the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DVRS). These community-based organizations are focused on providing information, peer counseling, skills training, advocacy, and a variety of services based on the individual's specific needs to live independently.

Centers for Independent Living in New Jersey:

<https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/resources/cntrindlivindex.html>:

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

[PROGRESSIVE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING \(PCIL\)](#)

1262 Whitehorse-Hamilton Sq. Road., Bldg. A, Suite 102

Hamilton NJ 08690

Telephone: (609) 581-4500 (877) 917-4500

TDD: (609) 581-4550

[ALLIANCE FOR DISABLED IN ACTION \(ADA\)](#)

(Middlesex, Somerset, Union Counties)

629 Amboy Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837

Telephone: (732) 738-4388

TDD: (732) 738-9644

[CAMDEN CITY INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER](#)

(City of Camden)

2600 Mt. Ephraim Avenue, Suite 413

Camden, NJ 08104

Telephone: (856) 966-0800

TDD: (856) 966-0830

[CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING OF SOUTH JERSEY, INC. \(CIL-SJ\)](#)

(Camden and Gloucester Counties)

1150 Delsea Drive, Suite 1

Westville, NJ 08093

Telephone: (856) 853-6490

Toll free: (800) 413-3791

TDD: (856) 853-7602

[DIAL, INC.](#)

(Essex and Passaic Counties)

2 Prospect Village Plaza, First Floor

Clifton, NJ 07013

Telephone: (973) 470-8090

TDD: (973) 470-2521

[DAWN, INC.](#)

(Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties)

66 Ford Road, Suite 121

Denville, NJ 07834

Telephone: (973) 625-1940 (888) 383-DAWN

TDD: (973) 625-1932

HEIGHTENED INDEPENDENCE & PROGRESS (HIP)

(Bergen County)

131 Main Street, Suite 120

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Telephone: (201) 996-9100

TDD: (201) 996-9424

(Hudson County)

26 Journal Square, Suite 602

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Telephone: (201) 533-4407

TDD: (201) 533-4409

MOCEANS CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

(Monmouth County)

565 Broadway

Long Branch, NJ 07740

Telephone: (732) 571-4884

(Ocean County)

1027 Hooper Avenue, Bldg 6, Flr 3

Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone: (732) 505-2310

[PROGRESSIVE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING \(PCIL\)](#)

(Hunterdon and Mercer Counties)

1262 Whitehorse-Hamilton Sq. Rd., Bldg. A, Suite 102

Hamilton NJ 08690

Telephone: (609) 581-4500 (877) 917-4500

TDD: (609) 581-4550

Hunterdon County Branch: Telephone:(908) 782-1055

(877) 376-9174

TDD: (908) 782-1081

[RESOURCES FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING \(RIL\)](#)

(Burlington County)

351 High Street, Suite 103

Burlington, NJ 08016

Telephone: (609) 747-7745

TDD: (609) 747-1875

(Cumberland County)

614 E. Landis Avenue

1st Floor

Vineland, NJ 08360

Telephone: (856) 825-0255

(Salem County)

193 North Broadway

Pennsville, NJ 08070

Telephone: (856) 678-9400

[ATLANTIC CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.](#)

(Atlantic County)

160 South Pitney Road, Units 3 & 4

Galloway Township, NJ 08205

Telephone: (609) 748-2253

Supportive Housing Options

Supportive housing options enable Individuals with IDD to be an active participant in the community, while also receiving supports and services in a shared living environment.

Group Homes

Group homes or community residences are homes shared by residents who receive services from an agency that provides on-site staff 24 hours a day. A provider agency operates a licensed group home that serves between 4 and 6 residents with disabilities.

One example of this type of housing option can be found at The Arc of Hunterdon. The Arc of Hunterdon provides residential placement services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout Hunterdon County. They currently support group homes, supervised apartments, and supported living arrangements.

Home Sharing (Shared Living)

This is where a few unrelated people, with or without disabilities, share their resources and live in one home. This model often works best when the person with disabilities holds the lease and decides who they are going to room with. Housemates might receive payment in exchange for providing supportive services.

One example of this type of housing option can be found at HomeSharing.org. Homesharing, Inc. was established in 1984 as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit to provide shared affordable housing in Central New Jersey by professionally matching homeowners with those needing affordable housing in our community.

Integrated Supported Housing

A multiple-unit housing community where 20% or fewer of the units are for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and tenants with special needs live among those without disabilities.

One example of this type of housing option is Project Freedom. [Project Freedom](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that develops and operates barrier-free housing to enable individuals with disabilities to live independently. Supportive services such as recreation and advocacy are offered.

Intensive Specialized Group Home (Medical Group Home)

Individuals with significant medical, behavioral or psychiatric needs may need intensive staff support throughout the day. An intensive specialized group home could offer professional support such as nursing, applied behavior analysis, counseling, and therapeutic services. This option is to provide needed clinical supports and prepare the individual for a less restrictive living model.

One example of this type of housing option can be found at The Arc of Camden. The homes are located throughout Camden County and provide services to individuals with a wide range of abilities and medical needs. A number of the homes are equipped and staffed to provide services to individuals who have medical involvement in addition to a developmental disability. Individuals must be referred by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to be eligible for services. Each program provides 24-hour supervision.

Living with Family and Receiving In-Home Supports

This means that an individual with a disability receives supportive services delivered within his or her own home while living with family members. Services can include:

- Personal Care Assistance
- Respite
- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Crisis Intervention
- Tutoring
- Assistive Technology
- Ask your Support Coordinator about In-Home Supports
- Supervised Apartments

An individual lives alone or with a roommate in an apartment with staff available to them on the premises for up to 24 hours a day.

One example of this type of housing option can be found at [The Arc of Essex](#). You can even take a 360 Tour of one of their apartments.

Important Contacts & Resources

Contact The Arc of NJ for further assistance:

[https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/who we are/contact-us.html](https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/who_we_are/contact-us.html)