

LOCAL
IMPLEMENTATION

Implemented on Cape Cod

OVERVIEW

A homesharing program allows homeowners to rent out extra space in their home in exchange for modest rent, contributions to household costs, and/or light help around the house or with daily tasks (for example, grocery shopping). These arrangements provide a homeowner with additional income or needed help while providing the renters with a more affordable housing option. Established programs may be helpful in connecting homeowners with possible tenants, as well as providing continued support for both the owner and renter throughout the process and while living together.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

Not Allowed to Build
Multi-family HousingToo Expensive to Build
New HousingToo Expensive to Secure
or Maintain HousingHard to Find Year-round
Housing

POTENTIAL BENEFITS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Can help provide homeowners with needed additional income and/or light household tasks, which may be particularly helpful in allowing residents to age in place
- Provides those looking for housing with more affordable options
- Those sharing space will need to share some compatibility of lifestyles, habits, and personalities
- People may not want to share their homes due to security concerns
- This type of program will likely benefit those living alone more so than families or couples
- The program should be ready to provide support if issues arise between the owner and tenant

RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

Nesterly Boston - This program originally piloted by the City of Boston connects graduate students in need of housing with older homeowners with spare bedrooms. The company also operates programs in other metropolitan areas.

Homeshare Vermont - This program has been matching homeowners with those in need of housing since 1982.

Time to Share, Homesharing in Massachusetts - This paper by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging provides an overview of homesharing and its possible benefits.

CASE STUDY: HOMESHARE NANTUCKET PROGRAM

Homeshare Nantucket is a program that aims to connect homeowners with employers whose year-round employees need housing. The space provided to employees can be an unoccupied room, apartment, cottage or home. The program receives financial assistance from the Community Health Initiative and in 2019, the Nantucket Chamber began managing the program. This service is free to all homeowners and employers.

More information is available [here](#).



Photo: www.homesharenantucket.com