



## **OVERVIEW**

### **Specialized Housing, Inc. Program New Maine Program group forming**

Specialized Housing, Inc. has supported adults with DD/ID and related disabilities in home settings for groups of 8-10 in Massachusetts and Maine since 1983. Eight of the ten original residents in the first program, which opened in 1983, continue to live together and thrive. This statistic is testament to the good work Specialized Housing does to support residents in their programs. The program in Maine, at 20 E Street in South Portland, opened in May of 2010.

Three families have purchased a property for a second program at 14 E Street in South Portland. Opening is anticipated for late 2017/early 2018. The new program will be for 10 residents. 7 spaces remain. The staff ratio will be 1:10.

Families purchase a unit in the house, which is a bedroom and share of the common spaces. Real estate taxes are paid individually by the unit owner. Families function, in many cases, as the owner and landlord of the unit. Therefore, they can write off the condominium related expenses of owning on their annual taxes. Purchase price in the new program is expected to be \$ 180,000 +/-.

The monthly assessment for condo related owner fees, staffing, management and household expenses – including utilities and food – will be around \$ 2100 a month. Families pay this assessment with SSI, Section 8 vouchers, if possible, family funds, and resident work income. At this time funding via Section 21 has not been utilized in Maine in an SHI program. SHI is working with DHHS and MaineCare on this issue. Most residents utilize services from the Section 29 waiver for day programs and work support.

### **Why do families choose this program?**

- Limited alternatives to living at home with family
- Aging parents. Families need to make a plan and SHI gives them the security they need for their family member over their adult child's lifetime.
- Lack of funding or unlikely funding, from State/Federal programs. Some adults that fit into our program are not in the State system.
- Desire for a community/family-like setting vs. living alone.

### **Why do residents like living at an SHI program?**

- Independence and gaining additional life skills
- Friendships
- Security and safety
- Autonomy
- Pride of ownership of their home



### Who are our residents?

- Men and women with developmental or intellectual disabilities
- Age 18+
- Higher-functioning (due to staffing levels)

### Staffing:

Clinical Director: 10 hours a month/more as needed. Supervises the House Manager.

House Manager: 40 hours a week – Monday to Friday – 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Live-in staff (2): 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM – Staff returns to their apartments when residents retire for the evening and are downstairs from 7 to 8 AM.

Relief staff: Saturday 3:00 PM to Sunday 3:00 PM and as needed.

NOTE: 24 hour coverage on weekends

Do visit our websites, schedule a conversation and tour of 20 E Street, and PLEASE spread the word to other providers, support people and families.

If you would like to be added to our email list, write me at [mcsemrowshi@gmail.com](mailto:mcsemrowshi@gmail.com).

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\*Parent of a 27 year old daughter with autism who lives at **20 E Street in South Portland**, a 9 bedroom house for adults with DD/ID supported by Specialized Housing of Brookline, MA.



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