

Clients must reside in the Roaring Fork Valley to participate in Ascendigo's ACE programming. Some families choose to relocate, others rent or purchase housing for their family member, and some chose to contract with an organization that specializes in residential support services. These services provide a structure for a Host or Reverse Host Home model for evenings and weekends when our clients are not participating in the ACE program.

A Host or Reverse Host Home's mission is to create a safe, welcoming residence for an individual living with autism so they may receive consistent care while living independently from their family. Host homes are traditionally created when a family or individual invites someone to live with them and integrate into their dwelling, often as an extended family member. Reverse Host Homes are becoming more popular as the Hosts move into a dwelling owned or rented by the Client and/or their family.

Hosts are most often compensated by the Client's family directly, by third parties like insurance or Medicaid, or a combination of the two. Clients may live in the Roaring Fork Valley with their family or in a Host arrangement and enroll in the Ascendigo ACE programming to provide support for daily living that leads to the highest possible independence and quality of life. Contracting with Host(s) requires thoughtful consideration. The appropriate number of Hosts, payment model, and ideal skills and qualities, as well as contract expectations are all worthy of thought and attention.

There are two distinct models a family may choose from when pursuing a Host or Reverse Host Home for their child. One is a private pay model, and the other is a Medicaid funded model.

Private Pay

Parent/Guardians of Clients who do not have a Medicaid waiver may hire and pay for Housemate services out of pocket. This means the Parent/Guardians may negotiate with their prospective Housemates for an agreed upon salary, cost of room and board and any other elements they would like to negotiate. The rental agreement is held by the family of the Client and is wholly separate from the contracted services with Ascendigo for ACE programming during their hours, although there are stipulations in the day programming contract to ensure the Housemate(s) participate in important meetings and communication to ensure consistency of care.

Medicaid, 3rd Party Payer

Clients who receive Medicaid funding may have a DD or SLS waiver. The DD waiver offers support for housing, but the SLS waiver does not. Be certain of which waiver you have before entering a contract with Housemate(s). As the PASA for the Client, your chosen residential service provider will retain a percentage of the annual funds from Medicaid to cover their costs. The other percentage will be forwarded on to Hosts as compensation. The amount of annual



ELEVATING THE SPECTRUM
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM

Host and Reverse Host Home Program

funding is dictated by the individual residential service provider's contract and client's support level. Housemates of Medicaid clients receive their income tax free, thus enticing qualified applicants. Hosts may boost their income by having more than one Client living in the home.

Ascendigo recommends families looking for Host or Reverse Host Home support contact the following service providers for more information:

AbleLight: (800) 369-4636

Pursue Joy: (970) 440-8118

Mountain Valley Developmental Services: (970) 945-2306 or (800) 626-6450