

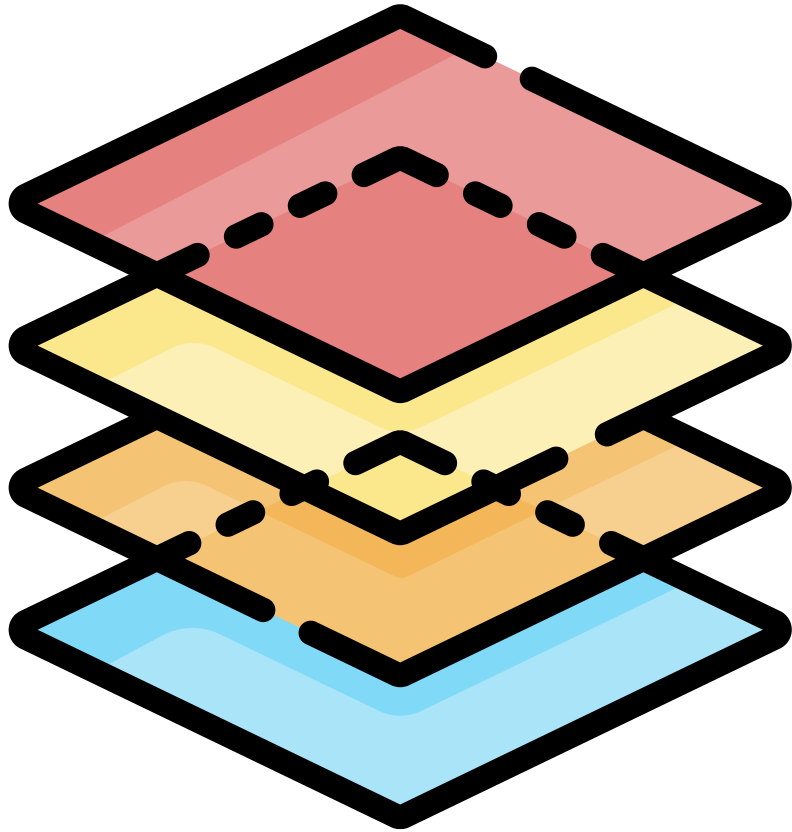
NOVA SCOTIA HOME SHARE – SAFEGUARDS

FEBRUARY 28, 2025

A Multi-layered Safeguards Approach



The Disability Support Program is prioritizing a **multi-layered** safeguards approach in developing new options to support Participants to live the best lives they can. This approach leans on both **formal** and **informal** safeguards.



Informal Safeguards

- Connections to family, friends, and support networks
- Active and supported engagement with the community, reflecting Participant interests, skills, and preferences
- Access to advocacy services & non-governmental organizations like the DRC.

Formal Safeguards

- Individualized planning & individual safeguards planning processes
- Financial reporting requirements
- Ongoing connections to DSP Support Planning staff

Participants in Home Share will be supported by the **full suite** of DSP safeguards, along with **tailored safeguards** specific to Home Share.

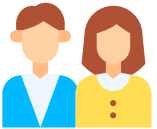
Safeguards



Home Share provides a home-like and relationship-based environment for participants, which presents significant opportunities as well as some inherent risks due to the privacy of a family home and the unique relationships that participants will have with Home Share Providers, their family, and their friends.



- The Participant maintains an **ongoing connection** with their family/support network, LAC/IPSC, the Home Share Coordinator, and their communities. Home Share Providers will be required to provide **reasonable and timely access** for these parties to the Participant's home. LACS, IPSCs, and Home Share Coordinators will have **reasonable caseload ratios** to build and maintain a relationship.



- No more than **two Participants** will live in a single Home Share.



- Coordinating Organizations will complete **extensive home studies** (including criminal record & vulnerable sector checks) to evaluate Home Share Providers, supporting effective matches.



- Home Share Coordinators will conduct **quarterly** in-person check-ins, as well as **monthly** virtual check-ins to ensure the arrangement is working well. This includes a requirement to meet **privately** with the Participant at least once annually. Additional contacts may occur depending on the individual nature of vulnerabilities and required safeguards in each person's individual plan.

Safeguards (continued)



- Home Share Providers will receive a **comprehensive orientation** from the Coordinating Organization, including items like:
 - History of the community living movement
 - Overview of the *Remedy*
 - Incident reporting
 - Basic medication administration
 - Techniques for addressing issues that commonly arise in home share
 - Basic de-escalation training
 - Emergency planning



- Home Share Providers will also have access to **specialized** training to meet **Participant-specific needs**, facilitated by the Coordinating Organization.



- Coordinating Organizations will be expected to:
 - Develop **incident reporting** and investigation processes, with reporting to DSP;
 - Maintain a 24-hour **on-call response** service that is available to Participants and their family/support networks; and
 - Support connections to **Home Share Provider Respite**. This includes a staffed capacity to provide emergency respite.



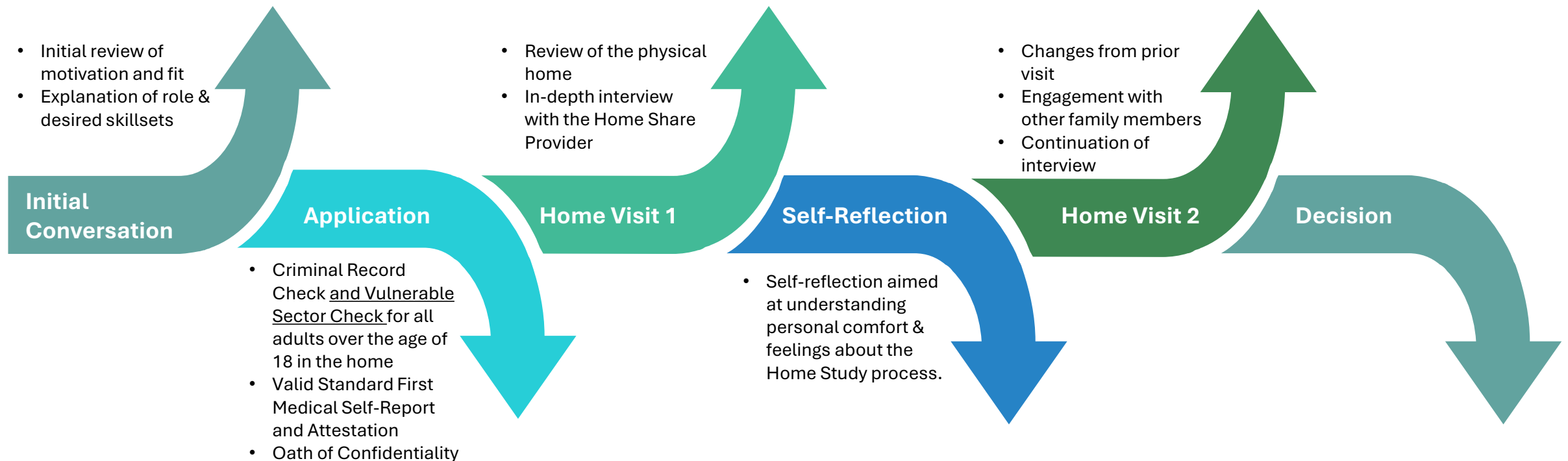
- Coordinating Organizations will be subject to **service agreements**, a comprehensive set of **Program Expectations**, and **service quality audits**.

Safeguards | Home Studies



Coordinating Organizations will be supported by DSP to conduct **comprehensive Home Studies** to evaluate Home Share Providers. DSP has prepared a prescribed process and *Toolkit* to support Coordinating Organizations.

The *Home Study Toolkit* outlines a (minimum) 6-step process for Home Studies, outlined below:



Safeguards | Home Study Training



The Disability Support Program will develop training to support Coordinating Organizations in conducting Home Studies consistently across organizations.

The training will include key elements across several areas, including:

- History of the disability rights movement
- Institutionalization in Nova Scotia and the *Human Rights Remedy*
- Understanding personal bias
- Person-directed planning
- The role of natural supports in safeguarding
- How to have challenging conversations
- Steps in a Home Study
- Expectations for Coordinating Organizations
- Expectations for Home Share Providers
- Interviewing Techniques
- Risk mitigation
- Privacy

