

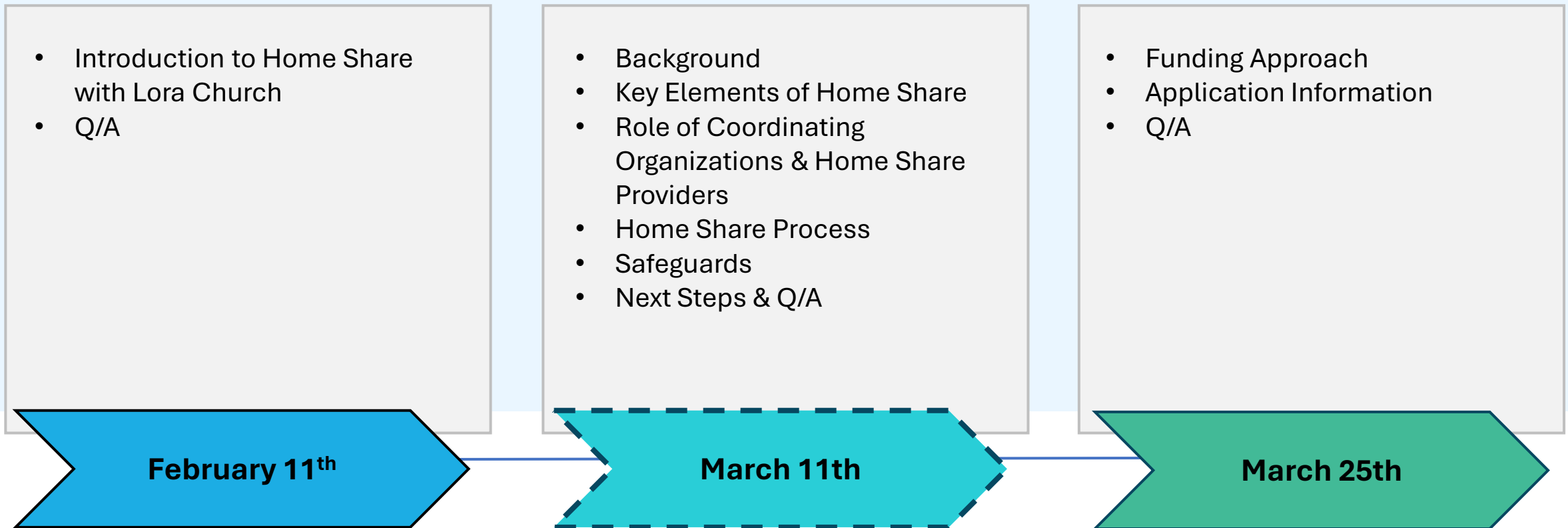
Disability Support Program (DSP)

Home Share Webinar

March 11th, 2025

Home Share Service Provider Sessions

There will be three service provider sessions on Home Share. Lora Church's presentation on February 11th covered an introduction to Home Share and can be found on the Vimeo site with all other Service Provider Webinar recordings. Below is an overview of all three sessions:



Agenda

- 1 Background
- 2 Key Elements of Home Share
- 3 Coordinating Organizations & Home Share Providers
- 4 Home Share Process
- 5 Home Share Safeguards
- 6 Next Steps & Q/A

Background

Home Share

At a previous webinar, we shared a brief overview Home Share its various safeguarding measures. Today we will be providing a more in-depth overview of what Home Share will look like in Nova Scotia.

What is Home Sharing?

As a refresher, Home Sharing is an approach that **matches Participants and Home Share Providers to live together in the community**, with evidence from other jurisdictions indicating it leads to **improved quality of life outcomes**.



The Design of Home Share



The design of the new Home Share service has been:

- Led by a focused project team (right), including external advice; and
- Informed by best practice across other jurisdictions, as well as Nova Scotia's experience with the Alternative Family Support Program.



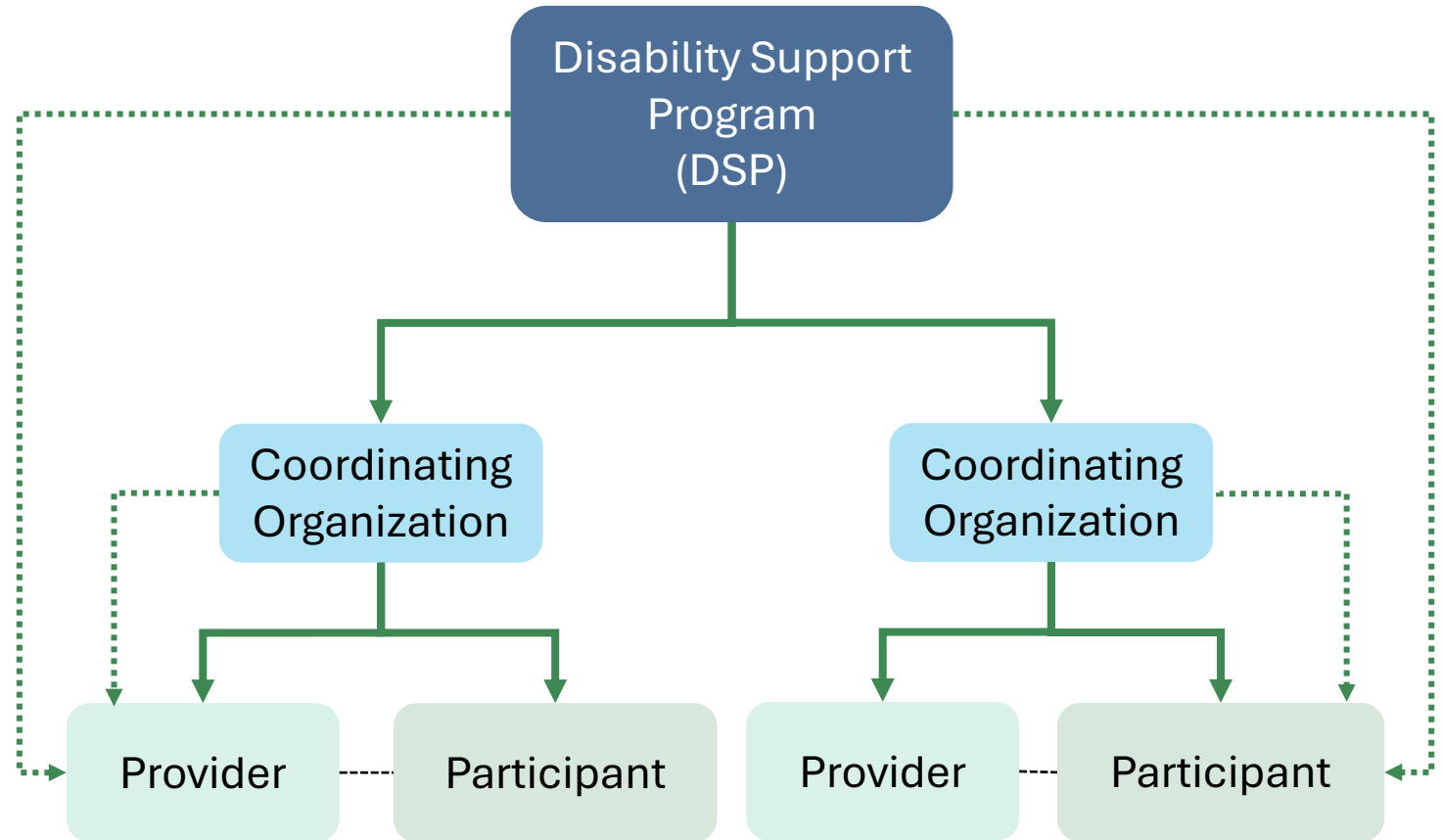
Project Team

- **Vicki Black**, Director
- **Anne Stokes**, Manager, Finance
- **Andrea Denton**, Project Manager
- **Nancy Simpson**, Program Coordinator
- **Lisa Burton**, Program Coordinator
- **Kim Landry**, Program Coordinator
- **Wendy Street**, DSP Specialist
- **Lora Church**, Project Advisor

Key Elements of Home Share

Home Share Service Structure

Home Sharing has clear lines of **accountability**: Home Share Providers are accountable to Coordinating Organizations, who are in turn accountable to DSP for overall service quality.



Who's involved in Home Share?

There are many parties involved in the Home Share process that are a part of building a strong relationship-based option that is personalized and provides benefits to both Participants and Home Share providers. LACs/IPSCs will support the Participant with planning, navigating supports, and supporting Home Share as needed.



Participant

The individual who receives disability-related supports and a caring home environment.



Home Share Coordinating Organizations (and Home Share Coordinators)

Performs vetting of Home Share Providers, conducts monitoring of the home, and remains available to the Participant to ensure arrangement is working well.



Home Share Provider

A member of the community who shares a home with a Participant and supports them to live in community.

Home Share Design Key Elements

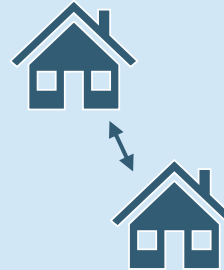


The following elements have been considered and built into the design of Nova Scotia's Home Share program.



Home Share Capacity

One Participant per Home Share is preferred, though Home Share Providers can support up to two Participants.



Flexible Living Arrangements

Participants can either move in with a Home Share Provider or have a Home Share Provider move in with them.



On-Call Support

Coordinating Organizations (COs) will provide on-call response services for urgent or unexpected situations for both Participants and Home Share Providers.



Respite Support

A portion of a Participant's Home Share funding will be set aside for respite, with the CO managing payments. Details on funding amounts will be shared at the next webinar.

Coordinating Organizations & Home Share Providers

Coordinating Organizations Expectations

The *Home Share Program Description* will outline Expectations for Coordinating Organizations. The document will be shared later this month to assist interested organizations in considering whether they have the capacity to manage a Home Share Program.



These expectations will include items such as:

- ✓ Conducting Home Studies and onboarding Home Share Providers
- ✓ Training requirements for Home Share Providers
- ✓ Making strong matches between Participants and Home Share Providers
- ✓ Reviewing quarterly outcomes reports to track Participants' life and development
- ✓ Providing an on-call response capacity to meet the needs of Participants and Home Share Providers
- ✓ Meeting requirements related to incident reporting, quality assurance, and supporting healthcare access and planning



Note: Coordinating Organizations will be expected to have their own processes, policies, and procedures in place to meet DSP expectations.

Role of Home Share Providers

While Coordinating Organizations will be responsible for administering Home Sharing, Home Share Providers will be responsible for the quality support a Participant receives.

How will we monitor Home Sharing Providers?

Home Sharing Providers will be monitored by Coordinating Organizations (COs) through home visits and reviews. Providers will be accountable to COs for their performance in several areas, like:

- Community Participation
- Rights and Protection of Participants
- Home Atmosphere
- Health & Safety
- Transitions
- Outcomes Reporting
- Compensation

DSP will not have a direct relationship with or oversight over Home Sharing Providers.
DSP will monitor service quality through Coordinating Organizations.



Home Share Process

From the Participant & Home Share Provider Perspective

Participant Journey Accessing Home Share



Meet Alice *(she/her)*

Alice is a DSP Participant who has included Home Share in her planning with her IPSC/LAC. She has worked with an EFAC and knows her approved funding band amount.



1

Alice begins **contacting Coordinating Organizations (COs)**, to discuss her needs and learns about options/costs. She **meets a potential Home Share Provider** who is a good match for her and decides to proceed with this option.



2

Alice contacts her IPSC/LAC and **Home Share becomes part of her IF funding proposal**. This proposal is then approved, and Alice receives **confirmation of her exact funding amount**.



3

Alice then **signs her Home Share agreement** with the CO and begins planning for her big move!

4

Alice directs DSP to send her Home Share funding to the CO, who then manages her funding and **ensures the Home Share Provider gets paid**.

5

While living with her Home Share Provider, Alice **maintains ongoing contact with her CO and IPSC/LAC**. Her CO sends reports to DSP as required.



Community Member Journey in Providing Home Share



Meet Sam *(he/him)*

Sam is a member of the community who is interested in becoming a Home Share Provider. He contacts a Coordinating Organization in their area to find out more information.



1

Sam applies to a Coordinating Organization (CO) in his area, who then conducts a **home study** and associated Home Share **records checks**.



2

Upon approval, Sam is given an orientation including information about respite, reporting, who to contact, etc. He begins taking the **required trainings** and **gets his home ready to host a Participant**.



3

The **CO arranges for Sam to meet potential matches**. He meets Evan, a Participant who seems interested in matching with him, and they arrange to meet up for coffee, discuss their potential Home Share arrangement, and figure out what might happen next.



4

Evan and Sam tell the CO they would like to proceed with their Home Share. The CO identifies specific training that Sam should take to effectively support Evan. Once the **Evan signs an agreement** with the CO and moves in with Sam!

Home Share Safeguards

Safeguards



DSP recognizes there are inherent risks to shared living within a private home environment; in line with other jurisdictions, best practice, and experience with AFS, Home Share has a safeguarding approach to support Participants.



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.



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



Coordinating Organizations will complete **extensive home studies** to evaluate Home Share Providers, including a criminal record & vulnerable sector checks.



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.

Safeguards



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.
- Support connections to **Home Share Provider Respite**. This includes a staffed capacity to provide emergency respite.

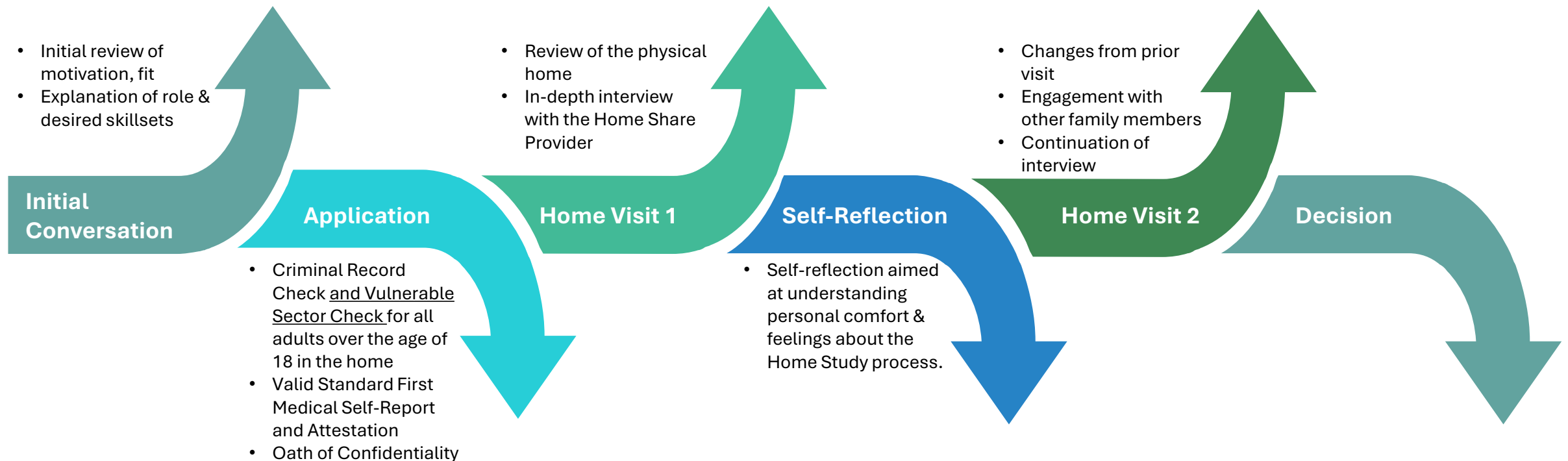


Home Studies



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:



Home Study Training



The Disability Support Program will develop custom Nova Scotian training to support Coordinating Organizations to conduct 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



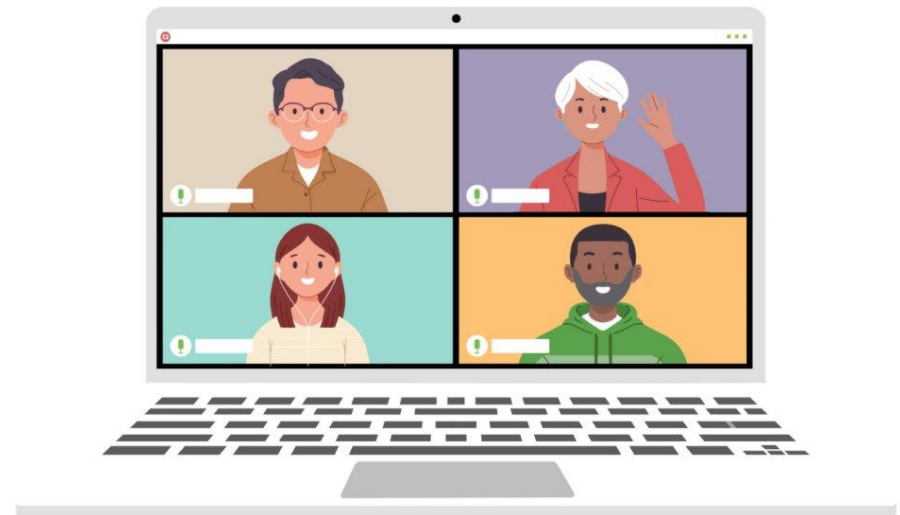
Next Steps & Q/A

Next Steps

On Tuesday, March 25th there will be another Service Provider Home Share Webinar. This is where we will share information about the Home Share funding approach and application process. A portion of this webinar will also respond to any questions that are submitted following today's webinar.

As a reminder, the agenda for March 25th is as follows:

- Funding Approach
- Application Information
- Q/A





**Thoughts?
Questions?**

- Please **type your questions in the chat** and our moderator will read your question aloud.
- If we are not able to get to your question today, please submit it through our question submission form.
- This will be linked in the chat at the end of this meeting – our goal will be to respond to these at the next session on March 25th.

Thank you!