

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMES

at Arc of Acadiana



A **What to Expect** Guide for New Clients

Searching for a community group home that can provide the right level of care for your loved one with a developmental disability, while also honoring their need for independence, shouldn't be stressful. If you've never utilized a group home before, the forms, phone calls and meetings required to get started can be overwhelming. In this guide, you'll find everything you can expect when considering Arc of Acadiana's community group home program — from inquiry to onboarding and beyond.

STAGE ONE

Inquiry

When you get in touch with Arc of Acadiana, our administrative team will want to know more about your loved one's situation. It's a good idea to have their basic identifying information and medical details handy, as this will help us determine the best fit for your loved one within our organization.

TIP: *The assessment period with AAHSD can take up to a month. We recommend reaching out to them a week or two before reaching out to Arc of Acadiana to get the process started.*

In case you haven't already spoken with them, we'll also refer you to the Acadiana Area Human Services District (AAHSD). They're a government agency responsible for assessing whether your loved one is eligible to participate in a group home program. They'll evaluate your loved one's needs and make a recommendation about whether or not our program is a good fit for them.

Acadiana Area Human Services District | 337.262.5610

STAGE TWO

Assessment of Needs

After you've made your initial inquiry, we'll set up a meeting between you, your loved one and our team. During this meeting, we'll take a deep dive into your loved one's needs and figure out how best to support them. We'll talk about the resources they require and the type of assistance they need to achieve their goals.

This is also an opportunity for you and your loved one to ask any questions you might have and to voice any concerns or requests. We understand that this can be a big decision, and we want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and confident moving forward.

STAGE THREE

Move-in Day

Once all of the initial discoveries, assessments and discussion of goal planning has taken place, your loved one is ready to move in! Arc of Acadiana will provide most of the furniture and other living necessities your loved one will need, such as beds and dressers. When packing, consider some of the more personal items your loved one will need:

- **Clothing** - shirts, pants, pajamas, undergarments, etc.
- **Toiletries** - hairbrush, toothbrush, deodorant, lotion, etc.
- **Essential medications***
- **Aid devices** - wheelchairs, canes, walkers, braces, hearing aids, glasses, etc.
- **Down-time activities** - books, drawing supplies, cards, etc.

**Medication should be discussed with the Program Director, Home Manager and QIDP prior to the first day. All medication must have a physician's order, and Arc staff must be trained before it can be administered.*

STAGE FOUR

Development of Care Plan

After your loved one moves in and the needs assessment is complete, a Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional (QIDP) will create an individualized goals and learning plan for your loved one. This plan will serve as a guide for us to assist them in achieving their objectives and flourishing in our group homes. We will collaborate with both you and your loved one to ensure that the identified goals align with your expectations and requirements.

STAGE FIVE

Daily Life

At our community group homes, we strive to enhance individuals' lives by emphasizing socialization and community involvement through meaningful activities. Our daily offerings include a diverse range of creative and recreational opportunities through our Day Program services as well as at home such as:

- **Art**
- **Music**
- **Gardening**
- **Individual Employment**
- **Community Volunteering**
- **& more**

Alongside these activities, we also provide life skills training in areas such as money management, basic housework and cooking. Our primary focus is to support our participants in improving their quality of life in a healthy and nurturing environment that fosters growth, happiness and self-sufficiency.



VISITATION POLICY

Our group homes have an open-door visitation policy, which permits registered family members to visit their loved ones as often as possible. To register individuals as approved visitors, kindly speak to your onboarding team. Additionally, if you wish to take your loved one on an outing or vacation that extends beyond 24 hours, our residents are eligible for up to 45 days of leave from the home.

ARC OF ACADIANA'S COMMUNITY GROUP HOMES

Ready to Get Started?

At Arc of Acadiana, we don't think working with a community group home facility should be difficult. That's why we've been serving Acadiana's developmentally disabled community for nearly 70 years. Above all, we run our organization with the idea that all people - regardless of their ability - deserve to live life to their fullest potential. And we'll be there to help them every step of the way. If you're ready to get started, consider reaching out to Arc of Acadiana - we're ready to help you.

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