

# Housing Options for Today and Tomorrow

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## Goal:

Participants will understand which housing considerations are important to them, and which housing options and home support services are available in their community or area.

## Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Identify four housing options and four home support services available in their community or area.
2. Complete the *Housing Considerations: What Is Important to Me* checklist.
3. Use the *Support Services for People in Their Own Home and the Housing Options* checklists to investigate their own community or area.

## Program Materials:

Available at: <http://communityprograms.unl.edu/programs.html>

1. Participant's Handout: *Housing Options for Today and Tomorrow*
2. Power Point: *Housing Options for Today and Tomorrow*
3. Participant checklists:
  - *Housing Considerations: What Is Important to Me* Form A
  - *Support Services for People in Their Own Homes* Form B
  - *Housing Options for Older People* Form C

## 4. Evaluations:

- Teacher/facilitator
- Participant

## Before the Meeting:

Read the Leader's Guide and Participant's Guide. Decide which activities to use for the meeting. Make copies of the checklists. You may want to have your local or area phone books and a listing of county and area services with you for discussion of available services and housing.

## At the Meeting:

### Introduction

Whether we are 45 or 85, understanding housing and related service options is critical in making choices now and in the future.

Many people choose different types of living arrangements over time. Their reasons for housing changes may include potentially lower housing expenses, wanting to travel more, the desire to be closer to family, reduced responsibility for maintenance and upkeep, more convenient location, closer to needed services, desire for more social contact, or the need for greater day-to-day assistance. There are many options for people to consider as they choose housing. This lesson addresses the multiple housing options and related services potentially available in communities.



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### **Activity 1:**

Use these questions to begin a discussion of housing options and housing-related service options in your community.

1. How many housing options (apartments with universal design features\*, licensed nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.) are available in your own or nearby communities?
2. How many support service options can you identify in your own or nearby communities that help people remain in their own homes and live independently?

### **Activity 2:**

Using the PowerPoint® and Participant's Guide, highlight the characteristics of each housing option and each support-service-related option. Define and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative. You can also print the PowerPoint "slides" and use the pages as a mini-flip chart for small groups.

### **Activity 3:**

Ask participants to complete the *Housing Considerations: What is Important to Me?* Form A checklist. Have the group discuss the similarities and differences in their checklists.

### **Activity 4:**

Have participants complete the *Housing Options and Support Service Options* checklists — Forms B and C. Discuss what is available and what is needed in the community or area. Discuss how your group could get the community involved to address any housing needs that have not been met for people in the community. What steps would need to be taken?

### **After the Meeting/ Evaluation:**

Before participants leave, ask them to fill out the evaluation form and return it to their local extension office or to Shirley Niemeyer, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, P.O. Box 830804, Lincoln, NE 68583-0804. Fill out the leader's evaluation and return it to the same address.

\**Universal design* is "the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. The intent of universal design is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost. Universal design benefits people of all ages and abilities." – Ron Mace

# Housing Options for Today and Tomorrow Evaluation

## End of Meeting Report *for the Leader or Teacher*

How many persons participated in the lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

1. How many of the participants, if any, completed the:

*Housing Considerations: What is Important to Me?* checklist? \_\_\_\_\_

*Support Services for People in Their Own Homes* checklist? \_\_\_\_\_

*Housing Options for People* checklist? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many people reported, after the lesson, that they:

a. Are more knowledgeable about housing options? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Are more knowledgeable about housing-related service options? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Will use the information in making housing choices in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

d. Want to create more housing options in their own community? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Want to create more support service options in their own community? \_\_\_\_\_

f. Want to create a task force to study housing options and service needs in the community? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Identify any *housing options* mentioned by the group that are needed in your community, but are not available.

4. Identify any *support service options* mentioned by the group members that are needed in your community, but not available.

**Comments:**

**Thank you for completing this form and returning it to your extension office or to Shirley Niemeyer, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, P.O. Box 830804, Lincoln NE, 68583-0804.**