Housing Options

Mature Resources Foundation
The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging
Types of Housing

- ECHO Housing
- Shared Housing
ECHO Housing

- Elder Cottage is not a new concept---it’s roots were in the 1880s when Amish families used them to keep their loved ones near home.
- The tiny house movement has spurred the Elder Cottage concept as they too offer affordable, sustainable, housing that can be placed anywhere.
- Elder Cottages have enormous potential right now in Pa. as the elder population is rapidly growing.
- In 2016-Pennsylvania had the 7th oldest population in the United States.
- In Clearfield County; 18% of our population over the age of 65.
An Elder cottage is a small, separate, manufactured residence for an older person that is temporarily placed in the side or rear yard of a host family; usually a relative. This arrangement provides autonomy for its resident, along with easy access to family and friends who can provide assistance. When living arrangements change for the resident, the cottage is removed to the home of another host family.
Why Clearfield County

Clearfield County as mentioned before has one of the highest elder populations in the state; 18% over 65 and 8.5% over the age of 80.

This indicates a clear need for increased housing options for older persons in Clearfield County.

National AARP studies indicate that most older adults desire to remain in their community and age in place.

Clearfield County has been approached by a number of families who are looking for alternatives to placing their loved ones in institutions.

Families and Individuals to be served in Clearfield County

Elder Cottages and Shared Housing target adults 60 years and older who wish to age in place and are finding it difficult from a financial standpoint to do so in the home they currently reside.

They must be able to live independently with or without services.
Amenities of the Cottage

- Open floor plan
- One bedroom
- Living/Dining area
- Wheelchair accessible bathroom with roll in shower and roll under sink
- A Kitchenette
- Utility Room
Home Sharing is an alternative, long-term living arrangement where two or three individuals choose to live together for their mutual benefit; it offers:

- Choice
- Companionship
- Neighborhood Stabilization
- Emotional well-being
- Independence
- Security

Individuals benefit from security, companionship, independence, help in emergencies, cost savings and living sustainability.

Each home is found in an actual neighborhood and is designed to blend into the fabric of the community.
Shared Housing (cont.)

- Each person has their own private bedroom
- Shared common areas include kitchen, living room and outdoor spaces
- Individuals help each other with household tasks, providing a sense of camaraderie, lessening the burden on everyone
Benefits to ECHO and Shared Housing living arrangements........
Elder Cottages and Shared Housing may not be for everyone but it is another option for families who wish to explore alternatives to placing a loved one in an institution.

Seniors who interact with family have longer, healthier, and happier lives.