

SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Northwest Regional Council
600 Lakeway Drive
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 738-2500 (V/TDD) or (360) 380-8121

Housing and Long Term Care Terminology

Retirement Residences

-Sometimes referred to as Retirement Homes or Senior Living Facilities

These are private apartment or bungalow-type units rented to seniors. Some offer meals and/or other services, but residents are typically capable of independent living. Private payment only, no assistance available. For a list of retirement residences, contact Senior Information & Assistance.

Subsidized Housing

-Sometimes referred to as HUD housing, Senior housing, Highrises or Section Eight.

There are a variety of subsidized rent programs for people who are disabled or elderly, including section 8, public housing, and tax credit buildings. Eligibility is determined by income. For a list of subsidized apartments, contact Senior Information & Assistance.

Adult Family Homes (AFH)

-Sometimes referred to as Adult Boarding Homes, or foster homes.

These are usually private homes, licensed by the state to provide supervised care to residents in a home-like setting. Individuals are provided assistance with activities of daily living and three meals a day. Adult family homes vary in the level of care provided. Most accept private pay or Medicaid. Current listings are on-line at www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov/ or call Senior Information & Assistance.

Boarding Homes

-Sometimes referred to as Assisted living or Adult Residential Care

Boarding Home communities cover the gamut of senior housing and long-term care. Usually contained within one facility, there is independent housing, congregate care, and specialized care. Some assisted living complexes even have skilled nursing available. These types of facilities accept private payment, long term care insurance, or state assistance (medicaid) based upon availability.

Nursing Home or Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)

A nursing home or skilled nursing facility is for those persons who have a medical need and who have been referred by a physician. These types of facilities accept private payment, long term care insurance, or state assistance (medicaid) based upon availability. Because of the high cost of nursing care, many people find that they are eligible for state assistance (medicaid) to help pay nursing home costs. Sometimes referred to as convalescence homes.

Specialized Care

People who have Alzheimers Disease or other dementias need specialized care. Many facilities offer specialized care in one form or another. These programs vary greatly. They include secured areas in assisted living buildings, locked units in nursing homes, and entire facilities dedicated only to specialized care.