



General Questions to Ask Prospective Partners

For organizations thinking about “partnering” to operate supportive housing, it is useful to have a series of preliminary meetings to discuss some or all of the following questions:

- Why does your agency want to be involved in supportive housing?
- What are the reasons you want/need to partner with another organization?
- How much experience does your organization have in residential services? What about with people with disabilities and people who have been homeless?
- What do you think the goals of this supportive housing program should be?
- What populations are you interested in serving in this housing? (e.g., singles, families, people with mental illness, older adults, physically disabled, people in recovery from substance use, people actively using, etc.) Would you rather develop a residence for a single population or mixed populations?
- What are your expectations for residents? (e.g., work, community service in the residence, being a good tenant, etc.)
- What kinds of behavior from residents will be unacceptable to you? (e.g., alcohol use, drug use, bizarre dress, poor personal hygiene, people talking to themselves, etc.)
- How do you feel about residents’ having overnight guests? What about pets?
- Do you think sexual activity between residents should be prohibited?
- What should the criteria for eviction be?
- What kinds of problems should supportive service staff handle?
- Do you have supervision in your organization? What about staff meetings?
- How does your agency handle conflict in working relationships?
- Should we have another conversation about partnering or should we end it now?

Source: [Coordinating Property Management and Social Services in Supportive Housing. Center for Urban Community Services/Corporation for Supportive Housing HUD Curriculum](#)