Shared Housing App

LA Family Housing

Sharing housing with someone is a complicated and difficult thing. Poverty and recent homelessness can increase these challenges, but shared housing can also provide an incredible benefit for those who are getting back into housing. From social and emotional support and sharing transportation to providing childcare, buying in bulk, and splitting the cost of utilities and rent, sharing an apartment or house with another person or group of people can have profound positive outcomes *if* you have the right roommates.

The purpose of the shared housing app is to assist in the identification of potentially compatible roommates. Our initial set of questions is part www.match.com and part social work, recognizing the unique concerns that people who are experiencing homelessness might consider and the intimate nature of sharing one’s home with other people.

The application would be available to two different populations:

1. Anyone connected with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) serving those experiencing homelessness. The survey would be filled out with their case manager.
2. A landlord, homeowner, or tenant who is open to renting out a room in their house or apartment or renting out a back unit at their house to a person connected to CES.

The application must:

1. Protect people’s personal information
2. Limit access to those who are connected to CES or interested in renting to those connected to CES
3. Provide a list of possible roommates ranked by degree of compatibility based on common answers
4. Show which questions users responded similarly and differently to
5. Allow for particular responses to block a match with someone. i.e. One user responds that they are allergic to cat and another user responds that they have a pet cat.
6. Be user friendly, simple in its design and appropriate for a wide range of people including those with low reading comprehension

It would be great if the application could:

1. Easily adapt to different communities
2. Be translated into the most common languages in Los Angeles
3. Input general housing criteria to screen for certain applicants. i.e. Rent is 1000 so we screen out people who make less than $XXXX per month, the landlord will not accept evictions so we screen out those with evictions.
4. Provide for groups of people to be matched. i.e. the app gives us a group of 4 people who are all compatible because there is room for 4 people within a unit

**Questions**

1. What is your relationship status?
2. What is your gender?
3. What genders are you open to living with?
4. Not open to living with a particular gender?
5. OK with what ages of roommate?
6. Do you have kids?
7. How many kids?
8. What ages?
9. What is your education level?
10. Do you smoke tobacco?
11. Do you smoke marijuana?
12. Do you use any other drugs aside from tobacco and marijuana?
13. What drugs are you open to your roommate using? Pick from list
14. Do you drink alcohol?
15. How often do you drink alcohol?
16. Do you have pets or emotional support animals?
17. What kind of pets/support animals?
18. Are you open to a roommate who has a pet or emotional support animal?
19. Do you have any allergies?
20. What ethnicity describes you?
21. Do you belong to a particular religion?
22. Do you consider yourself carefree or intense?
23. What is the importance of religion/God/spirituality in your life?
24. Do you enjoy politics?
25. Where are you on political spectrum?
26. Consider yourself normal or weird?
27. How often do you clean your space?
28. How important is cleanliness to you?
29. Are you currently employed?
30. Do you work from home?
31. Do you work nights?
32. If you are unemployed, do you plan on working?
33. Do you recycle?
34. How long before you wash the dishes?
35. How do you feel about living with someone who is messy?
36. Do you like movies?
37. Do you like sports?
38. Are you a creative type/artist/musician/writer?
39. Would you date someone who does drugs?
40. Do you speak a second language? Which?
41. What SPAs are you willing to live in?
42. Any neighborhood you are unwilling to live in?
43. What cultural background of roommate are you open to?
44. Do you prefer it cold or hot in your living space?
45. When do you pay bills? Early, right on time, often late?
46. Do you like having friends or family over to the house?
47. Do you plan on having anyone spend the night at your place?
48. As long as agreements are made about frequency and access to common space, are you ok with your roommate having friends spend the night?
49. Do you consider yourself a home body or do you like to go out?
50. Would guns or weapons be allowed in the house as long as they are legally owned and away from children?
51. What is your income?
52. How much income do you think you could reasonably make in the next 6 months?
53. Do you consider yourself a morning person or a night owl?
54. Do you have eviction(s)?
55. Do you consider yourself loud or quiet?
56. What about the environment you prefer to live in? Loud or quiet?
57. If you have children, do you think its ok to spank as a form of discipline?
58. Is it ok for others who you trust to discipline your children?
59. Have you ever had a roommate?
60. Have you ever lived on your own?
61. Do you owe utility arrears?
62. Are you open to borrowing/lending money?
63. Are you open to borrowing/lending food?
64. Are you affiliated with any gangs?
65. Do you have any ongoing legal issues?