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Home But Not Alone: How does HBNA work?

[Housing Services](#)

Housemate Match
Home But Not Alone
In-Home Caregiving

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Who is the tenant?

- A person looking for cost-effective housing
- Interested in shared living arrangements
- Able to pay some rent
- Agrees to criminal background check for violent offenses
- Able to submit three (3) personal references
- Must be 18 years or older

Release Forms

- [Pre-Application](#)
- [Client & Staff Responsibility Agreement](#)
- [HIV status verification release](#)
- [Mental health status release](#)
- [Case management release](#)

Documentation Needed at Interview

- Identification
- HIV status verification (lab report, letter with doctor's signature, etc.)
- Income verification (SS award letter, pay stub, bank statement, etc.)

Who is the home provider?

- A person looking to lower their current housing costs
- Interested in shared living arrangements
- Able to provide at least one private bedroom with locking door
- Willing to share common living spaces like the kitchen and laundry facility
- Agrees to criminal background check for violent offenses
- Able to submit three (3) personal references
- Must be 18 years or older

How does Home But Not Alone work?

1. Initial telephone screening
2. Home visit (at residence of home provider) or tenant interview (at HBNA office or other AIDS Service Organization)
3. Receipt of income verification and status verification
4. Completion of criminal background check and reference checks
5. Referrals to tenants or home providers
6. Move in!
7. Follow-up by housing counselor on a regular basis

No waiting list at any time!

Benefits of Homesharing

- Enables homeowners to stay in their home as long as possible
- Promotes stabilized housing for home sharers as well as viable members of the community
- Provides affordable and safe housing for people in crisis
- Cultivates urban life

- Increases disposable income
- Promotes individual growth through independence
- Reduces stress often associated with living alone
- Provides increased rent relief
- Enables home sharers to return to work
- Establishes economic empowerment for both home sharers
- Maintains minority cultures
- Promotes safety with continued screening and background checks

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[Awards & Honors](#)

HBNA was nationally recognized by the Mutual of America Foundation and the National Shared Housing Resource Center in 2003.

In 2007, HBNA was presented with the National Community Development Association's Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award.

Home But Not Alone is the only homesharing program specifically geared to those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States.

[HBNA in the Media](#)

- [Southern Voice Article](#)

State Department visits HBNA



The U.S. State Department - International Visitor Program selected Marcus JCC of Atlanta - Home But Not Alone as one of two HIV/AIDS agencies in Atlanta. Home But Not Alone is part of a nationwide network who builds relationships with leaders from other countries. The delegation from Poland and the staff of Home

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Our Mission

The mission of Home But Not Alone is to reduce the cost of shelter by matching compatible people interested in sharing living arrangements, expenses and household duties. Home But Not Alone provides affordable housing for people who combine personal and financial resources in sharing the home.

The purpose of the program is to provide cost-effective housing for those in need of a place to live in order to prevent homelessness. Home But Not Alone also avoids unnecessary or premature institutionalization of those living with HIV/AIDS who prefer to remain in the home.

Our History

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, metro Atlantans living with HIV/AIDS grew rapidly. With discrimination based on HIV status prevalent in housing and employment, Atlanta's HIV+ homeless population expanded exponentially. In 1994, the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta's Housemate Match program introduced Home But Not Alone in response to a call for action from city leaders.

What is Home But Not Alone?

Home But Not Alone (HBNA) is a nationally recognized program of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA), a private, non-profit, non-sectarian, 501(c)(3) organization. HBNA is a unique program as it provides compatible home providers and tenants, one or both of whom are living with HIV/AIDS, with shared living arrangements. Qualified home providers in the Atlanta metro area who have an extra room in their homes are matched with qualified tenants with limited income to create a safe and affordable housing situation for both parties. The HBNA program promotes client independence, empowers the home provider to remain in the home, and furnishes the tenant with a stable home environment. The home provider receives an affordable rent from the tenant. Periodic evaluations are conducted by HBNA staff to assess the evolving nature of the roommate relationship.

This program is a free service that is open to tenants and home providers of all ages, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. One full-time housing counselor completes intakes, home provider interviews, and conducts matches. Each home provider is met by the housing counselor in their home for a personal interview, addressing housing history, current and past HIV treatment, mental health and substance abuse history, and personal and intellectual interests. Homes are inspected for structural condition, cleanliness, access to shared space, neighborhood safety, and availability of public transportation. Personal interviews discussing similar topics are also conducted with every tenant. Current HBNA trends regarding appointment-keeping, communication with staff and potential home providers, and length of roommate match reveal an increased level of engagement from tenants who are interviewed at agencies inside their comfort zone (ie. case manager's office, doctor's office, etc.) as opposed to MJCCA.



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In 2006, 18,838 Georgians were reported to be living with AIDS (HIV/AIDS Surveillance, 2006). This group of individuals faces varying challenges to the accomplishment of activities of daily living due to the unique biological, psychological, emotional, and social impact of HIV/AIDS upon their lives and environment. Safe and affordable housing is often the cornerstone to ensuring quality of life and not just quantity of life for this population.

Transmission

HIV is found primarily in *blood, semen, & vaginal fluid*.

HIV *cannot* be transmitted through daily activities or objects, including shaking hands, hugging, casual kissing, toilet seats, drinking fountains, doorknobs, dishes, drinking glasses, food, pets, or mosquitoes.

HIV and Housing

The critical role of safe, affordable housing in the prevention of HIV/AIDS infection and the maintenance of quality of life among those living with the virus has long been recognized. Persons living with the virus and engaged in stable housing situations are more likely to have an active relationship in their primary HIV care and are less likely to utilize expensive medical arenas, such as emergency care and inpatient hospital stays (The National AIDS Housing Coalition). This directly highlights the role of safe and affordable housing in adherence to medical regime that ultimately lengthens successful physical functioning and, therefore, quality of life.

Striving to achieve stability within the lives of its clients, Home But Not Alone remains at the forefront of holistic HIV/AIDS treatment in the metro Atlanta community. Home But Not Alone partners with Atlantans living with HIV/AIDS to secure safe, affordable, and convenient housing to prevent homelessness, increase adherence to medical regime, and improve mental health status.

HIV/AIDS Surveillance, (2006). Georgia HIV/AIDS Surveillance summary, Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources, 1-15.