



# HomeShare Kingston



May 2024

Family of Woodstock, the City of Kingston and the Kingston Housing Task Force are exploring the possibility of a home sharing program in Kingston. Home sharing programs seek to address the shortage of affordable housing by matching homeowners who have additional living space with home seekers looking for safe & mutually beneficial rental situations. An online public survey was conducted to learn more about whether there is interest in the program from potential home providers and home seekers in Kingston. The survey, available in English and Spanish, was open from February 6 until March 8. A summary of the survey results is below.

Based on the survey results and the outreach performed, the agencies are working on launching HomeShare Kingston. For more information or if you would like to be involved, email us: [homesharekingston@familyofwoodstockinc.org](mailto:homesharekingston@familyofwoodstockinc.org).

<p><b><u>Responses:</u></b></p> <p>90 Kingston residents  41 Other Ulster County residents  <b>131 Total</b></p>	<p><b><u>Interest:</u></b></p> <p><b>40 individuals</b> indicated they would be interested in volunteering in an administrative capacity for a Kingston HomeShare program.  <b>20 homeowners</b> indicated initial interest in sharing their homes as part of HomeShare Kingston  <b>21 home seekers</b> indicated interest in participating in HomeShare Kingston and in providing some services to the Home Providers in exchange for reduced rent</p>
<p><b><u>Do you believe that a HomeShare Program could be part of the solution for Kingston's current housing emergency?</u></b></p> <p>Yes: 100      No: 22      Don't know/maybe/it depends/other: 9</p> <p>Among those that answered yes, common reasons cited included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow seniors and anyone on a fixed income to stay in their homes;</li> <li>• Additional source of affordable housing;</li> <li>• Important part of the community/sharing ethos;</li> <li>• Kingston in particular is centrally located to businesses/services/workplaces;</li> <li>• This exists informally, formalizing could attract participants &amp; introduce protections for both sides;</li> <li>• Social benefits such as alleviating loneliness, improving mental health, etc.</li> </ul>	

Among those that answered no, common reasons cited included:

- Attention and resources should be spent on creating long-term housing units in which tenants are not sharing homes with landlords;
- Program could be difficult to scale.

**Program design feedback:**

- The need for a responsible vetting process and scrutiny of home seekers and home providers;
- Ensure that home sharers and home seekers have adequate rights as part of the home sharing agreement.