

# Is Senior Home Sharing an Option for You?



**Aging in Place  
By  
Renting Your Space**

- Mike Perel; Braddock Representative
- Fairfax Area Commission on Aging
- 9/21/2022

# What is senior home sharing?

- **A living arrangement that involves an older home owner renting a room in their home, typically sharing kitchen per agreement**
- **Can rent to similar generation adult**
- **Can be intergenerational with college student or young adult in exchange for below market rents and assistance with some agreed upon basic chores.**
- **It's not medical care for an older adult**

# Problems/needs it could address

- **High housing costs-utilities, taxes, upkeep, mortgage**
- **High student debt; campus housing limited**
- **90% of older adults want to age in place**
- **A significant % of 65+ live alone**
- **Over 35% of those 65+ had at least a minor problem doing heavy housework; maintaining home and yard (2019 Fairfax Survey of older adults)**
- **Past studies indicate home providers experience improved health, well-being, social interaction, and an increased ability to age in place**

# Board Matter Request

- **"Identify the feasibility of a Home Share pilot program, potential next steps, and potential fiscal impacts of implementing a pilot Home Share program in Fairfax County"**
- **County proposed 3 options:**
  - No direct involvement in home sharing
  - Create awareness about existing resources and services.
  - Conduct a feasibility assessment of home sharing in Fairfax County.

# Aging in Place by Renting Your Space

Survey of Braddock Aging in Place Group and OLLI Newsletter list

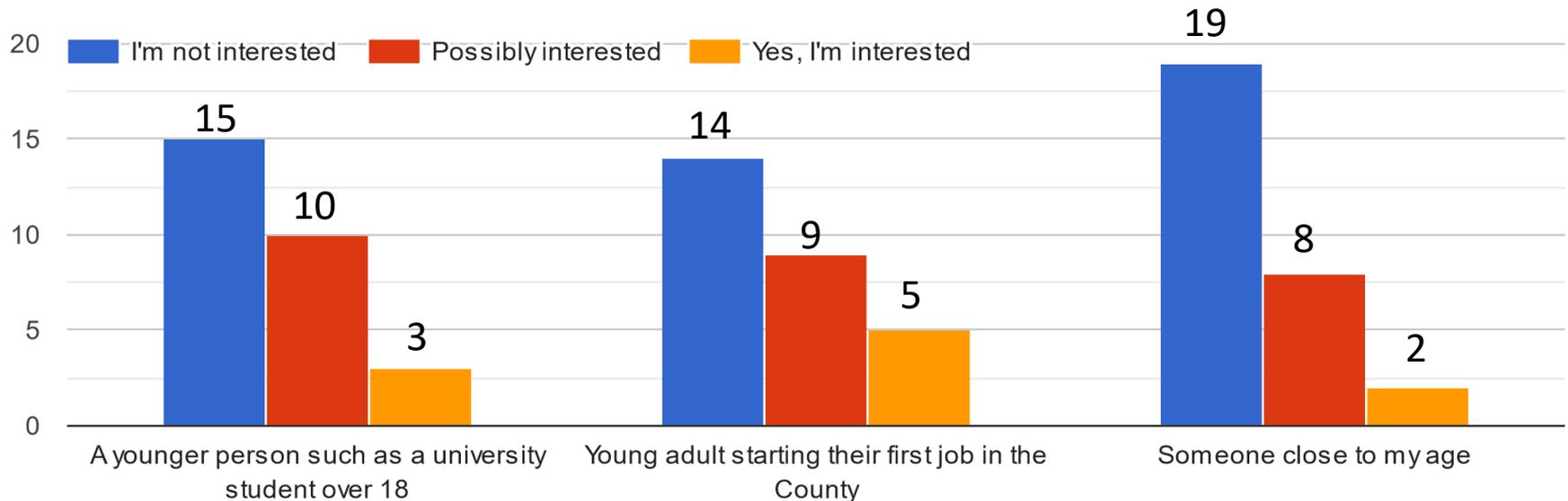
Many older home owners in Fairfax County are choosing to remain in their homes as they age. Many university students and young workers are looking for affordable housing. One option that could benefit both groups is home sharing. **A third party/organization identifies and qualifies home sharers and home seekers (e.g., background and credit checks), helps arrange suitable matches, and provides assistance as needed. Both parties need to agree on the sharing arrangement.** Typically, in this type of arrangement, the home owner offers a private bedroom/bathroom and shared common area in exchange for below market rent, help around the house, or a combination of the two.

The purpose of this survey is to gauge the level of interest in home sharing among older home owners in Fairfax County. The results will be shared with County staff who are considering the feasibility of developing a home sharing service.

Note that your responses are anonymous.

# Are you interested?

If you are a homeowner aged 60 or better, would you be interested in renting a room in your home to any of the following home seekers? An answer is needed in each row.



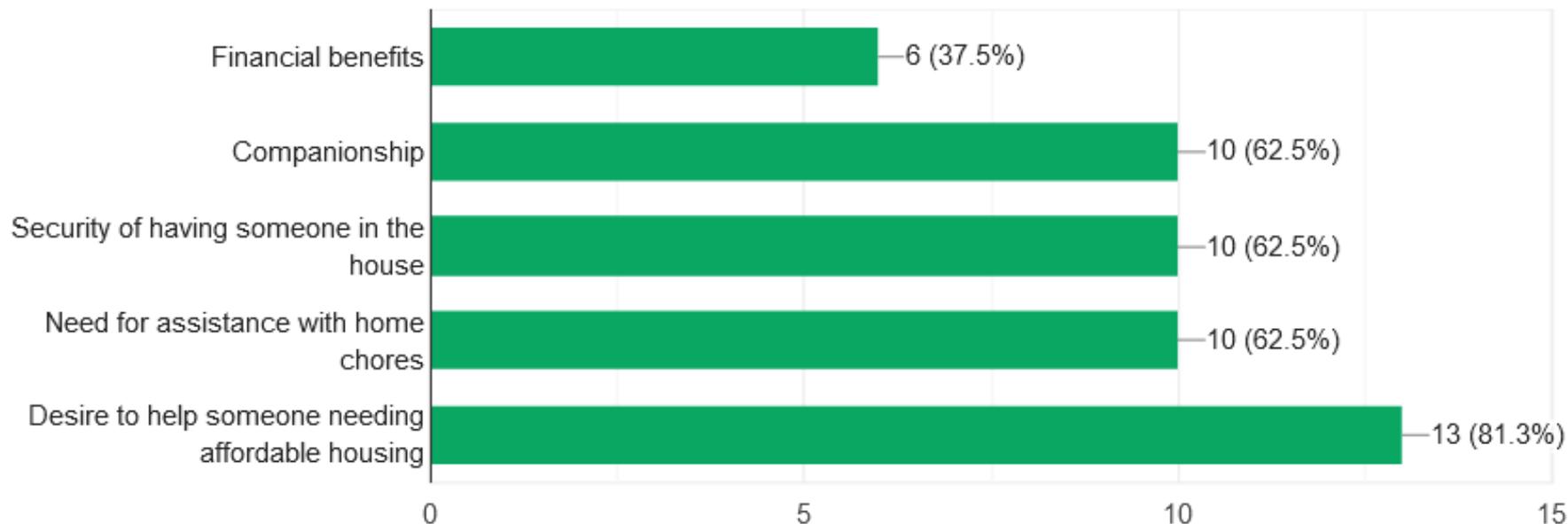
Of about 1400 surveys, about 28 (2%) responded and 1% showed some interest

If you checked "possibly interested," please describe what you would want to happen to increase your interest in home sharing? e.g., COVID risk becomes very low; when I start to have trouble maintaining home; learn more about the matching process; etc.

- Nothing
- Matching process would be critical - a background check, references, etc.
- Learn more about the process
- Physically able to help with household chores.
- Low covid risk, no smoking or drugs, no pets,.
- Learning more
- More specifics about how the program would affect renter and tenant
- To assist a student, particularly a BIPOC person who was previously in foster care.
- When I start having trouble and if i learn more about the matching process and how the program is working out
- Confidence in the character of the person sharing with me, and a better sense of how to set the boundaries for interactions and sharing
- Someone reliable that is able to perform house and yard work. also snow removal. nonsmoker and not an alcohol drinker.

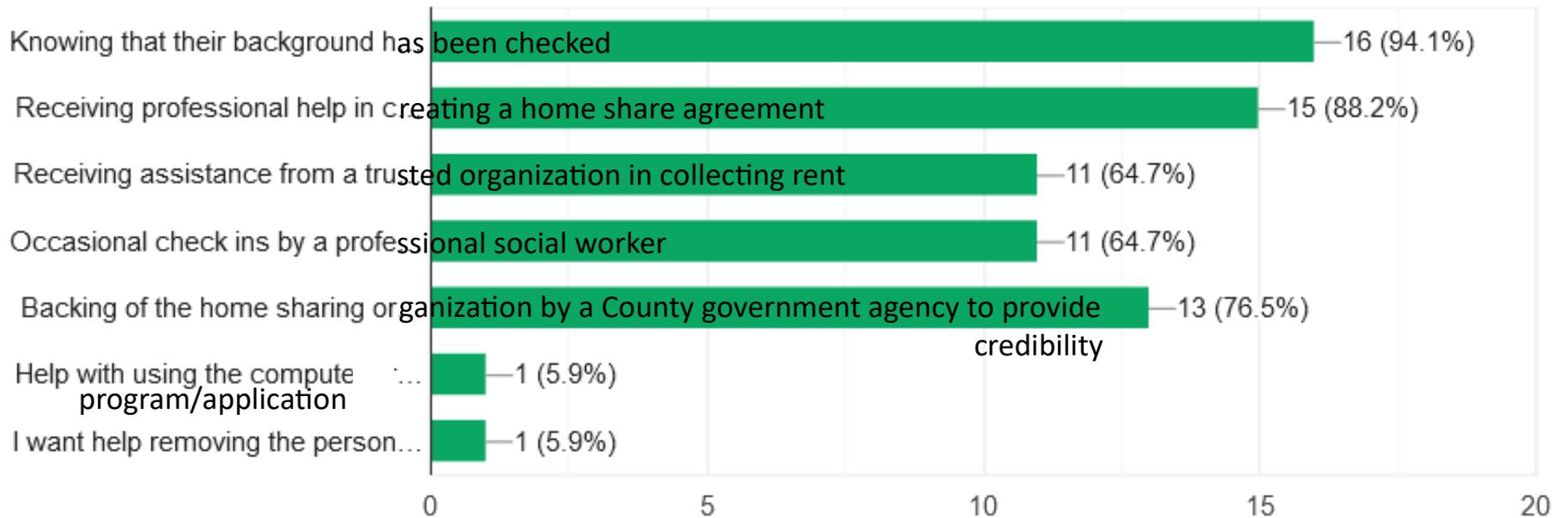
If you checked "possibly interested" or "interested," what are the reasons that you would want to try it? (Check all that apply)

16 responses



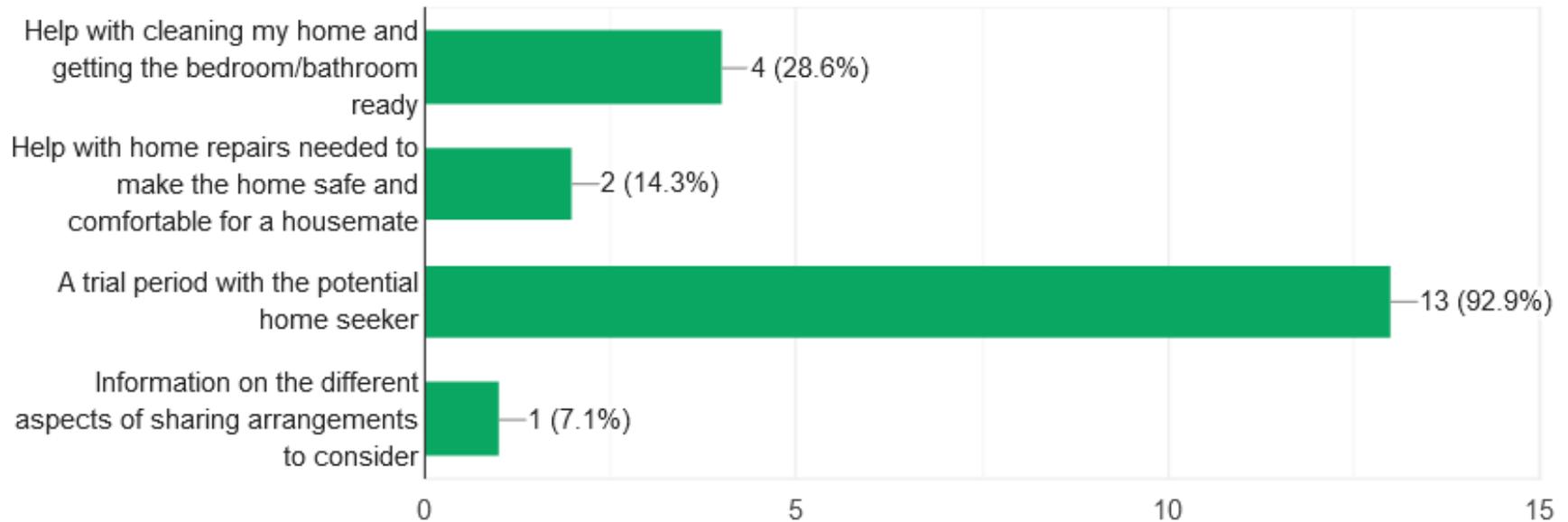
# What is important to me in looking for a potential housemate? (Check all that apply)

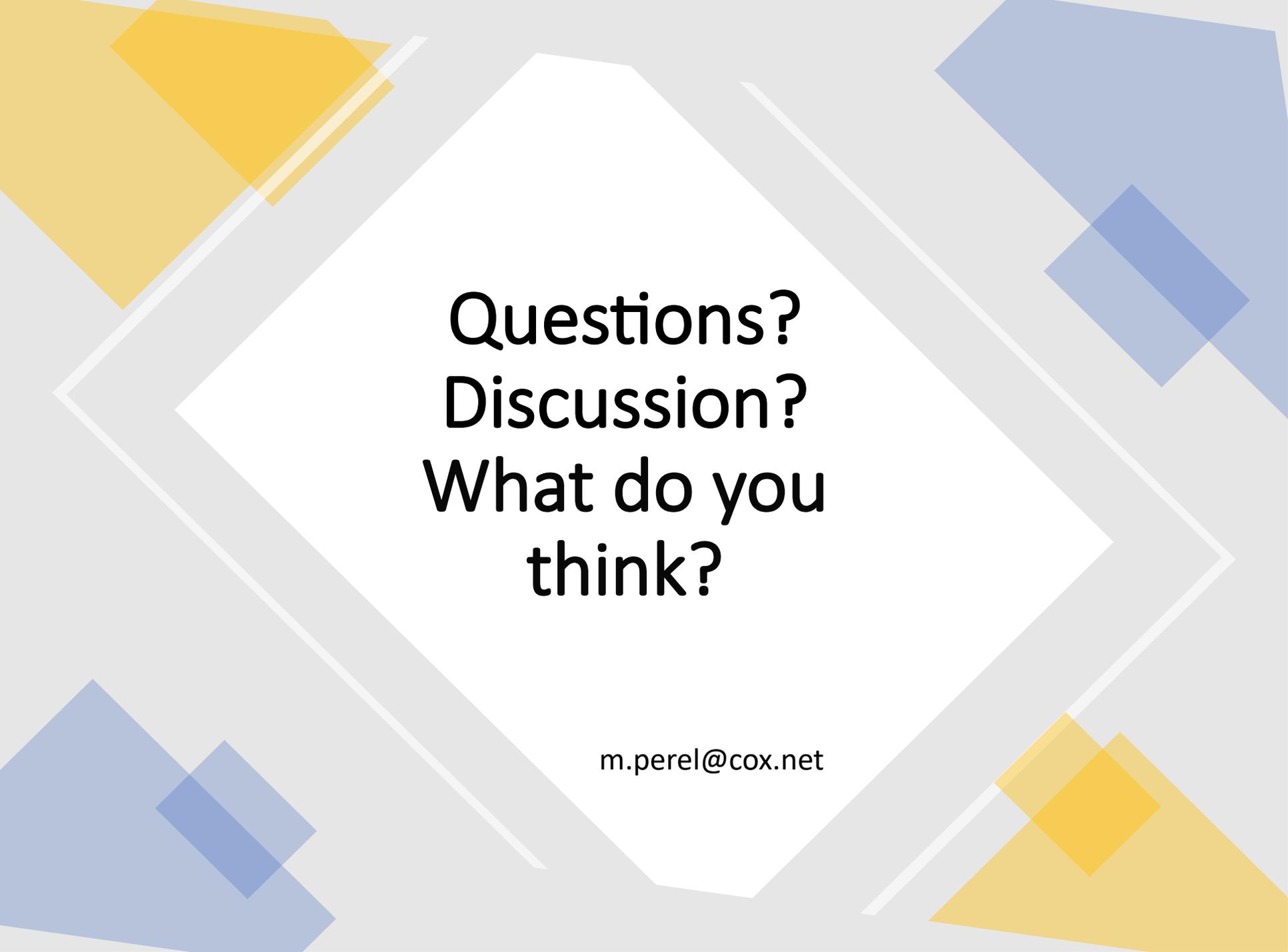
17 responses



# Before agreeing to a house mate, I would first need the following: (check all that apply)

14 responses





**Questions?  
Discussion?  
What do you  
think?**

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