



Information Sheet No. 29

Residential communities for people with (and without) dementia

Externally assisted residential communities provide an alternative to persons in need of care, in particular those suffering from dementia. Residential communities are not nursing homes or residential facilities. The residents live together as tenants in a separate, shared apartment. The support and care are provided by home care services.

Important features of externally assisted living communities

There are basically two types of residential communities: There are self-managed and provider-managed housing communities. Self-managed residential communities are defined as communities in which the rental and care contracts are separated, the residents are free to choose their care provider and they are fully responsible for regulating their cohabitation. If one of these conditions is not met, it is referred to as a residential community for which the provider is responsible.

Each person or their authorized representative signs a single rental contract and a care contract. The Berlin Residential Participation Act (Wohnteilhabegesetz) enables the rental of residential property to be contractually and effectively separated from the provision of care and support. However, it is advisable to separate rental and care services, as this allows residents to retain their domestic authority and freedom of choice.

In the residential community, each person has a private room, which is fitted with private furniture. In addition, there are usually a common living room and kitchen and one or more barrier-free bathrooms. The fitting of the apartment with personal, familiar furnishings is intended to help create a familiar and comfortable atmosphere.

Nursing and care are usually provided by one care service in the apartment and usually until the end of life. In each WG, in which at least one person at care level IV resides, there must be at least one assistant constantly present. Then at least one care assistant must be present around the clock. Depending on the number of residents and the level of care required, multiple teams are possible or required in early and late shifts.

A further legal requirement for a residential community is that the residents or their relatives or legal guardians have a significant role in shaping the community life. This is something that must be learned together and which repeatedly enlivens the lives of all involved.

Relatives and legal guardians are an important factor in the functioning of the residential community. This will require joint organisation, agreement on co-existence, their communal stance and actions. A written agreement in which relatives and legal guardians set out

important key points (e.g. dealing with major purchases or changing the care service) can be very supportive.

In addition, a jointly appointed person (care assistant) can take on organisational tasks via the residential group supplement.

In provider-managed residential communities, the care service must ensure that a trusted person is available. He or she is elected by the residents or their legal representatives or authorized representatives. The trusted person should identify the common interests of the residents and promote social participation.

The daily organization is based on habits, needs, state of health, abilities and rhythm of the residents. They should be actively involved in daily activities such as cooking or washing up, in group activities, exercise activities, excursions or shopping. In this way, social, motor and cognitive skills can be promoted and preserved. For nursing care and supervision, it is important that a stable staff team is responsible.

In accordance with the Residential Participation Act (WTG), all assisted living communities can be inspected by the home supervisory authority if there are complaints about shortcomings in the care provided or in the supervision of residents.

Costs and funding

The costs consist of the rental costs including ancillary costs and a household allowance (e.g. for food, laundry care, household supplies, minor purchases and repairs). The rent and the household money are borne by each person himself. All costs incurred should be transparent and explained in an understandable way by the service providers (care service, rental) and regularly billed.

For nursing care and assistance within the Berlin residential communities, a binding daily flat rate will be invoiced for care receivers with a care level from level 4. This is described in service complex 19, see Information sheet No. 36.

For persons in need of care below care level 4, services are agreed individually and billed via service complexes. For residents whose costs cannot be covered either by care insurance benefits, savings or maintenance allowances, the Welfare Office provides additional assistance for care, see Information sheet No. 37.

In addition, care services have the possibility to invoice investment costs for their services. These amount to an average of 2.5 percent of the services provided.

The care insurance helps to cover the costs. The amount of outpatient benefits in kind is determined by the respective care level, see Information sheet No. 2.

This can be supplemented by a monthly community residence allowance in the amount of €224 according to § 38a SGB XI.

In addition, any one in need of care from a care level 1 is entitled to care / respite care benefits up to an amount of €131 per month. These services can be given by a care provider or an external service provider, see Information sheet No. 4.

Further support and advice

Selbstbestimmtes Wohnen im Alter - SWA e.V., Bülowstr. 73, 10783 Berlin, <https://swa-berlin.de/>

Telephone hours: Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Phone: 030 61 09 37 71, E-Mail: verein@swa-berlin.de

Vertrauensstelle Berlin – Beratung, Begleitung, Qualifizierung, Bülowstraße 73, 10783 Berlin, <https://vertrauensperson.berlin>

Office hours: Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Phone: 030 346 492 800, E-Mail: vertrauensperson@berlin.de

Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft e.V. - Selbsthilfe Demenz, Keithstraße 41,10787 Berlin, www.deutsche-alzheimer.de

Phone: 030 259 37 95 0, E-Mail: info@deutsche-alzheimer.de

Verbraucherzentrale Berlin, in der Rubrik Gesundheit und Pflege, www.verbraucherzentrale-berlin.de/wissen/gesundheitspflege

**The staff of the care support centre will be happy to advise you
Toll-free Service Number 0800 59 500 59**

www.pflegestuetzpunkteberlin.de

Support for the care centres is provided by the State of Berlin and the care and health insurance schemes in Berlin