Questions to ask yourself as you begin to consider your options:

- What is my budget?
- Do I want to stay in my home, or would I prefer the social environment of a community?
- Am I independent, or could I use a little help or a higher level of care?
- Would I prefer to be in a city, or would I like easy access to nature?
- Do I want to be near friends and family? What other factors are important to me in choosing a location?
- Do I want a community that is close to major hospitals?
- Would I prefer a large or small community?
- Would I rather be in an active or more serene environment?
- Am I interested in a community that provides care for the future, or would I feel comfortable in a more affordable rental community?
- Are there specific amenities that are important to me (e.g., library, movie theater, garden, greenhouse, putting green)?
- How important to me are factors like food, cultural programming, spiritual programming, educational programs and residence size?

Questions to ask home-based providers or communities:

- What services and levels of care do you offer?
- Is the community/agency licensed or accredited, if necessary?
- Do individual employees have the necessary certifications and licenses?
- Are Medicaid and Medicare accepted for nursing facilities and home health care?
- Is long-term care insurance accepted? If so, for what levels of care?
- What steps are involved in the application process?
- Is a health exam required to be eligible for care?
- What are the entrance fees, monthly fees, daily fees or hourly costs?
• If I had to pay an entrance fee or make a deposit, is any portion refundable if I want to move out or when I no longer need services?
• What types of contracts are offered?
• What are the payment policies?
• What is the average annual increase in fees?
• If I have concerns about paying, is there someone that can help me?
• What is the staffing ratio and retention rate?
• Is there a waiting list? How long would it take to be accepted?
• How many residences are there, and what are their sizes?
• Is there a hospital nearby?
• Does the community have a doctor or other health care clinician available?
• Is transportation available if I am unable to drive myself or no longer have a car? If so, what is the cost?
• Is the meal plan required, and what happens to it if I have a prolonged absence from my residence?
• Is there a current resident and/or family I could speak to?
• Is there outdoor living space?
• What is the pet policy?
• What is the move-out rate?