

# HOUSING TIPS

## Temporary Housing Options

The uncertain arrival date for your newcomer family creates a need for temporary housing.

Acceptable options include:

- Hotels (with accessible kitchen)
- Airbnb
- Separate Living Space attached to a private home (preferably with separate entrance)

## Permanent Housing

Get to know your local housing market! Identify housing that is potentially sustainable for your newcomer family beyond your support period. Housing should be clean, safe, and affordable, preferably near to shopping, employment, schools, and accessible to public transportation.

Research affordable apartment buildings and ask about typical availability and lease agreement details.

## Identify Potential Housing

### Online Search tools:

- Zillow (<https://www.zillow.com>)
- Apartments.com (<https://www.apartments.com>)
- Craigslist (<https://www.craigslist.org>)

### Use your Networks:

- Seek potential housing through your own contacts. Create a One Page Overview of your search criteria, circulate to your networks

### Consult with a Real Estate Professional

- Real Estate professionals know their local housing markets well. Typically there is no fee for this service to the renter.

## Securing Housing: Due to the national housing crisis, securing affordable housing can be competitive, be prepared!

- Ensure that the potential landlord is “friendly” to the idea of newcomers
- Create a Letter to the potential Landlord to submit with application- include:
- Overview of your planned support for newcomer family
- Information about Sponsor Circle program

### Questions for Landlords:

- Maximum occupancy of the housing
- Cost of Security Deposit and associated Utilities
- Terms for return of Security Deposit
- Co-signer requirements (if applicable)
- When/if co-signer can be removed from lease
- Process for early termination of lease, and associated penalties
- Possibility of shorter term lease or month to month option