

## Independent Affordable Housing and Support Services

Affordable housing is available across the state through public, private and non-profit providers. Housing is affordable when an individual or family pays 30% of their income for housing. There are several programs available across the state to assist individuals (with lower incomes) pay for housing through a rental subsidy/voucher.

Rental subsidies/vouchers can be project based (the subsidy is attached to a specific unit) or tenant-based (an individual is given a voucher and they can identify any apartment in the community that will accept the voucher).

There are public housing authorities in most communities that offer either project based, or tenant-based vouchers; RI Housing covers the areas in the state which do not have a public housing authority.

The other resource for project-based vouchers in apartments complexes are the ones designated for the elderly, those with a disability or families. Each apartment complex has a separate waiting list, therefore, when you identify the location where you would like to live, simply request an application and ***mail it in as soon as possible***.

The wait time to get to the top of the list varies and can take as long as 3-5 years, so it is important to start thinking about where you want to live and apply to several public housing authorities, apartment complexes or tenant-based voucher lists. ***It is also important to apply early***. Individuals can submit applications at age 18 if they have a disability and are income eligible.

The following link will take you to a housing guide created by Rhode Island Housing that will assist you in the process of identifying housing programs and applying for these programs, [https://www.rihousing.com/filelibrary/Rhode\\_Island\\_Rental\\_Resource\\_Guide\\_4-12-18.pdf](https://www.rihousing.com/filelibrary/Rhode_Island_Rental_Resource_Guide_4-12-18.pdf) [[rihousing.com](https://www.rihousing.com)].

However, if you are thinking about living independently in the community, there are a few things to consider:

1. What services would you need to purchase to achieve this goal?
2. Do you have supports to supplement the services you purchase?
3. How will you pay for rent?
4. Do you want to live alone or with roommates?
5. Where would you like to live?
6. Is it near employment opportunities?
7. Is it near a bus route or other transportation?

If you have further questions or would like to discuss different housing options, please contact your social case worker.