

Additional Resources

Cambridge Multi-Service Center (For Cambridge Residents)

⇒ 362 Green Street 1st Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-6340

C-CAN: Cambridge Coordinated Access Network (For persons experiencing homelessness)

⇒ 362 Green Street 1st Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-7715

Metro Housing Boston (For housing search workshops and listings)

⇒ 1411 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02120
617-859-0400

Rental Assistance

If you cannot afford to pay the first month's rent, last month's rent or security deposit upfront to a landlord, reach out to these agencies to see if you're eligible for moving expenses support:

Cambridge Multi-Service Center (For Cambridge Residents)

⇒ 362 Green Street 1st Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-6340

C-CAN: Cambridge Coordinated Access Network (For persons experiencing homelessness)

⇒ 362 Green Street 1st Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-349-7715

Catholic Charities Greater Boston

⇒ 185 Columbia Road
Dorchester, MA 02121
617-506-6600

RAFT (Residential Assistance to Families in Transition) - Metro Boston Housing

⇒ 1411 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02120
617-859-0400

Housing Search Basics

Although we do not offer housing search case management here at CHA, this guide offers suggestions on how to conduct a housing search and important factors to keep in mind when pursuing a potential apartment.





Know Yourself

In order for your housing search to be effective, you need to be aware of your needs, wants and barriers when considering which apartments to apply for. In addition to finding a unit within your voucher price range, here are other important factors to take into account:

- ◆ Household Budget/Foreseeable Expenses
- ◆ Credit History and Score
- ◆ CORI Report
- ◆ Housing/Eviction History (5 years worth)
- ◆ Character and Housing References
- ◆ Location (Accessibility to work, school, doctors, etc.)

Landlords review potential tenants much like employers review potential employees; they want to find a responsible and reliable fit. Even if you have barriers such as Credit or CORI concerns, providing evidence of your currently positive habits and plans will make you a more compelling applicant.

Where to Look

Anywhere and everywhere, seriously. Finding a unit is just as much a matter of persistence as it is luck, so leave no stone unturned until you finally get the keys to your new apartment.

Online

- ◆ CHA Apartment Listings
- ◆ Craigslist.org
- ◆ Padmapper.com
- ◆ Zillow.com
- ◆ GoSection8.com
- ◆ MassHousing.com

Please note that many online websites list broker/finder/realtor fees, so read the fine print. If you cannot afford a fee, enable filters when applicable to disable listings with fees attached.

Print

- ◆ CHA Apartment Listings
- ◆ The Bay State Banner
- ◆ Local Newspapers Around Town

Other Sources

- ◆ "For Rent" Signs Around Town
- ◆ Realtors (If within your budget)
- ◆ Networking (Ask everyone you know for leads!)

Keep in Mind

Aside from realtor fees, here are some other things to remember when conducting your housing search:

- ◆ Application Fees
- ◆ Upfront Costs (First and Last Month's Rent, Security Deposits)
- ◆ Your Schedule (Time to hunt for apartments and view available units)

Record Everything

Be sure to grab copies of our Housing Search Log to properly track your apartment outreach. In addition to having an organized list of the landlords you've contacted and when, this log is a great way to demonstrate your hard work if and when you request an extension for your voucher.

Contact Us

Cambridge Housing Authority
362 Green Street 3rd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139

(617) 864-3020

Visit us on the web:
www.cambridge-housing.org

NOTE: We do not offer housing search/case management at Cambridge Housing Authority; this guide is purely informational.