



## How to Find Housing: A Guide for Individuals Who Have Been Approved for a Supportive Housing Connection (SHC) Housing Voucher

### Getting Help with the Search for a Rental Unit

An individual who has been approved for a Supportive Housing Connection housing voucher will work with his/her Support Coordinator to determine if assistance is needed to search for a rental unit. If an individual needs assistance beyond that which can be provided by family and friends, the Support Coordinator can:

- Help identify a natural support who can assist the individual in searching for a rental unit
- Use the individual's budget to fund a support who will assist the individual in searching for a rental unit (if a natural support is not available)

### Where to Search for a Rental Unit

While there are many tools that can be helpful when searching for a rental unit, the following are good places to begin:

- New Jersey Housing Resource Center: [www.njhrc.gov/njhrc/find/](http://www.njhrc.gov/njhrc/find/)
- Advertisements in local newspapers
- Hotpads: <https://hotpads.com/>
- Craigslist: <https://geo.craigslist.org/iso/us/nj>



Any landlord who has a rental unit within Fair Market Rate (FMR), and is willing to accept an SHC housing voucher, can do so. Once a possible rental unit is identified, the individual will need to call the landlord to determine if the unit is available and may want to visit the site to tour the unit and complete an application. Please note that application fees, association fees, key fees, etc. are the responsibility of the individual.

### Help with Moving Costs

If an individual is approved for a voucher and requires assistance with one-time costs such as security deposits (for rental unit or utilities) or furnishings, the Division may be able to help if other resources are not available. Please contact 732.968.4222 and ask to speak with someone in the DDD Housing Subsidy Unit for more information.

Please note that expenses related to physically moving belongings into a rental unit are not funded through the SHC housing voucher or the individual's budget. This is an important part of the discussion that should occur with the Support Coordinator and/or the natural or funded support.

### Other Types of Assistance Available

- **NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP)**

Formerly known as *food stamps*, this is a program that can provide assistance with purchasing food. An individual can apply for NJ SNAP in person at his/her local County Board of Social Services or online: <https://oneapp.dhs.state.nj.us/>



- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

LIHEAP is a program that can provide on-going assistance with paying some utilities. To determine if an individual may be eligible for this type of assistance, he/she can call 1.800.510.3102 or visit LIHEAP on the web: [www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/hea.html](http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/hea.html)

### A Note for Support Coordinators

In situations where natural supports are not available to assist an individual in finding a rental unit, the **Community Based Supports** service can be utilized to fund a support. Please note that, in addition to all other required documentation for Community Based Supports, the following deliverables may be required:

- Documentation that the aforementioned websites, newspapers, etc. were used to search for a rental unit
- Documentation that phone calls to landlords were made to verify if units were still available
- Documentation, including date and time, of visits where a funded support took the individual to visit possible rental units, obtain applications, tour a location, and/or meet a landlord
- Documentation that the funded support has worked with the individual to apply for other forms of assistance as needed including, but not necessarily limited to, energy assistance and NJ SNAP

The above are illustrative suggestions only and may not be required in all circumstances.