

For More Information

Websites

Check out these websites to locate the best areas to look for housing based on the places you go often:

<http://www.walkscore.com/apartments>

<http://www.padmapper.com>

This website can help you figure out travel distances, times and options (like the bus or walking)

<http://www.maps.google.com>

Other Resources

<http://www.homeforward.org/find-a-home/learn-about-transportation-costs>

This web page has links to the following:

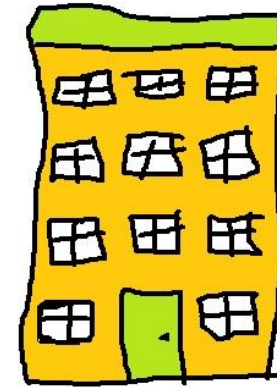
Moving: Beyond the Basics -an introductory video

Transportation + Housing Cost Comparison Worksheet

A guide for using the Walkscore website

For More Information

Contract your Rent Assistance Service Coordinator at
503-802-8333 Option 4



CHECK IT OUT!

Make Sure the Home Is Right for You



Housing Conditions: The Basics

- ⏪ Is the property well-maintained overall?
- ⏪ Does the entry to the unit feel safe? Would you feel comfortable going in and out at night?
- ⏪ Is the apartment clean? Does the apartment smell clean? (If there's a funny odor, ask what it is and what they will do about it.)
- ⏪ Does the plumbing work? Turn the faucets on and off, flush the toilet.
- ⏪ Do the kitchen appliances (refrigerator and stove) work?
- ⏪ Do you think the apartment will pass the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspection by the Housing Authority?
- ⏪ Will you have access to a washer and dryer in the complex?
- ⏪ If you have a car, is there a convenient and safe place for you to park?
- ⏪ If you have children, is there a place for them to play?
- ⏪ How quiet or noisy is the apartment complex? Does that fit with your lifestyle?
- ⏪ Does the neighborhood feel safe? Try to check it out at different times of day—morning, afternoon and nighttime.
- ⏪ Try to find a home you want to live in for years. Do you like it? Do you feel comfortable there?



When You Meet Your Landlord

- ⏪ First impressions count. Dress accordingly.
- ⏪ Bring your references, photo ID and application fee.
- ⏪ If the landlord accepts you as a tenant, bring your Housing Authority forms.

Costs: Get the Full Picture Up Front

- ⏪ Do you think you will pass the screening criteria? Ask for a copy of the landlord's screening criteria before you submit an application and pay an application fee. If you don't think you'll pass, think twice about spending the money to apply.
- ⏪ How much is the application fee? Is it refundable? Can it be applied to the first month's rent?
- ⏪ With your Section 8 voucher, how much will you have to pay in rent each month?
- ⏪ What utilities are NOT included in the rent? How much do they cost, on average, each month?
- ⏪ Do you have to pay extra for pets (if you have them), parking, laundry or other things?
- ⏪ How much is the security deposit? What is the policy about getting it back when you move?
- ⏪ Which utilities do you have to set up yourself? Do they require deposits?

The Hidden Cost: Transportation

- ⏪ How will you get to the places you need to go on a regular basis? (Work, school, friends).
- ⏪ Where's the nearest grocery store? How will you get there and back with groceries?
- ⏪ If you drive, will you likely spend more on gas than you do now if you move here? A lot more?
- ⏪ Is there a transit stop near you? How often does the bus or train come? Does it go directly to places where you need to go, or will you have to transfer?
- ⏪ Can you walk (or go in your wheelchair) to run errands from here?
- ⏪ If you have kids, how will they get around if you live here? Are there safe places for them to go?