

Are you looking for housing in Licking County?

Call or visit **Licking County Coalition for Housing (LCCH)** -- 740-345-1970.

LCCH has compiled a rental housing data base which includes rental units of all types, in locations throughout the County. Go to <http://www.lcchousing.org/> to access the listing. Search filters are on the web site to help you find housing units which meet your needs. 3422 units are currently listed. Talk to the workers at LCCH. They can help guide you with questions, budgeting and resources. Things to consider-

- ✓ Can you afford the rent and utilities? Income is very important to the landlord and will likely impact your ability to be approved. Student loans are not considered income.
- ✓ Does the landlord keep up on repairs? Ask to walk through the unit so you can see the condition. Talk to other tenants- ask questions about the landlord/repairs.
- ✓ How close is housing to your work/school (especially if transportation is an issue)?
- ✓ Getting approved- Many landlords require a rental history and background check. Landlords may not rent to you if you have a history of evictions. If you do not have a rental history, or have a poor rental history, consider getting other references like you would for employment. If you are working with an agency, like LCCH, they may be able to help. Income, and your ability to afford the rent, is also very important to the landlord and will affect approval. Student loans are not considered income.
- ✓ Application Fees, Deposits, etc. – Be prepared to pay an application fee, first month's rent, deposit, security bond and renter's insurance. These costs add up! Some programs/agencies may be able to help with first month rent or other costs. Application fees are for background checks, so if you have issues of concern in your background, talk to the landlord. They might work with you. If you do have issues that would show up on the background check, it is best to know before paying the application fee as these fees are generally not refunded. A co-signer can help you get into a unit. Having a good credit score can help lower deposits.
- ✓ Utilities- Check with the landlord to see what utilities are included in the rent. When you set up your utilities, the utility company will check to see if you have any past due bills. If you do, the bill will need to be paid prior to setting up the utility. If someone had utilities in your name and a past due bill is not yours, talk to the utility company. If you can prove the utility should not have been in your name, they will likely work with you.
- ✓ Pay your rent/deposits/etc. with a check or money order instead of cash because it is easier to track. Pay on time— the eviction process can start after 1 missed payment! If you are having trouble paying your rent, talk to your landlord as they might work with you. Keep your checks in a safe place and keep track of your spending.
- ✓ Leases- Read your lease carefully and keep it in a safe place so that you can refer back to it. Many landlords restrict long-term “guests”, subleasing and adding on roommates after a lease is signed- know what you are and are not allowed to do. If roommates are allowed, you may be charged additional rent for each tenant—know what is in the lease. In addition, if you lease says no pets, it means no pets. Don't lose your housing over this! Keep in mind—if you feed a stray, it will come back! Your binder contains a sleeve where you can keep your lease.

- ✓ Housing assistance programs- Contact 2-1-1 for a list of organizations that assist with rent, deposits and utilities. LCCH is a good resource of information. Licking County Coalition of Care and St. Vincent DePaul Society may be able to help. LEADS has a utility payment program.
- ✓ Moving- Moving can be costly. This is a good time to ask friends and family for help with boxes, a dolly or hand truck, a truck or other vehicle to move your belongings and help moving items (lifting and carrying)!
- ✓ Be a good neighbor- Introduce yourself- ask questions about the local area if you are not familiar (where is the nearest pizza shop, when is trash pick-up). Be friendly (wave, say hi), but take care as well- don't share your life story, don't ask neighbors to get your mail—you can go on line to the USPS (post office) if you need your mail held for a period of time. Be aware of shared walls (minimize noise). Control your pet. If you have assigned parking, use yours and encourage visitors to use visitor parking. Keep your apartment tidy- inside and outside.
- ✓ Tenant rights- You have rights as a tenant. Tenant rights information is in this folder.
- ✓ Other- If you need help with furniture, talk to friends and family. Call 2-1-1 for resources. St. Vincent DePaul and Goodwill stores can be helpful.