

Accessing Affordable and Appropriate Housing

This resource is from the Beach Center on Disability

<http://www.beachcenter.org/default.aspx>

Financial

- Look for a local Center for Independent Living in the government section of the phone book. These organizations often have housing specialists who can assist you and _____ in obtaining information about resources for purchasing or renting a home or apartment in your community.
- Get as much information as possible from your local Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) public housing agency/authority (PHA). Put _____'s name on the Section 8 Housing list. Ask if there is more than one housing list, for example one for project-based housing and another for tenant-based. Also ask what happens if _____'s name comes to the top of the list before being ready for a new living situation. Often, individuals can turn the voucher down once or twice before moving back to the bottom of the list.
- Begin looking for housing even before _____ is issued a Section 8 Housing Voucher. It is difficult to find rental housing in some communities that accept Section 8 Vouchers. Few states require owners of rental property to take Vouchers.
- Ask your PHA if they provide assistance with housing searches or a list of rental properties that accept vouchers.

Neighborhood

- Consider what kind of neighborhood would be best for _____. Drive through the neighborhood you are considering at different times during the day and evening to see what activities are occurring. Also observe the amount of traffic in the neighborhood.
- Consider what are _____'s transportation needs. Where will _____ need transportation to? Places to consider include grocery shopping, recreational activities, dining, work, laundromat.
- If _____ relies on public transportation, determine the time schedule and routes that support _____ getting to required destinations. Also check out proximity of the access to the public transportation and if a busy street will have to be crossed.

Housing Type/Design

- Determine what type of housing setting _____ wants, such as an apartment, condominium, single family dwelling.
- If _____ requires a housemate, look for a house/apartment that provides adequate private space for roommates. Having a private place for housemates to

retreat to is important. Also, take into account the amount of parking space available for personal assistants or housemates.

- Does _____ have special considerations for weather? For example, if you live in an area prone to tornadoes, look for a house/apartment with a basement or "safe" space. If you live in an area that receives significant snow fall, who will do snow removal?
- When choosing a single family home, keep in mind the amount yard and external house maintenance that will be required.