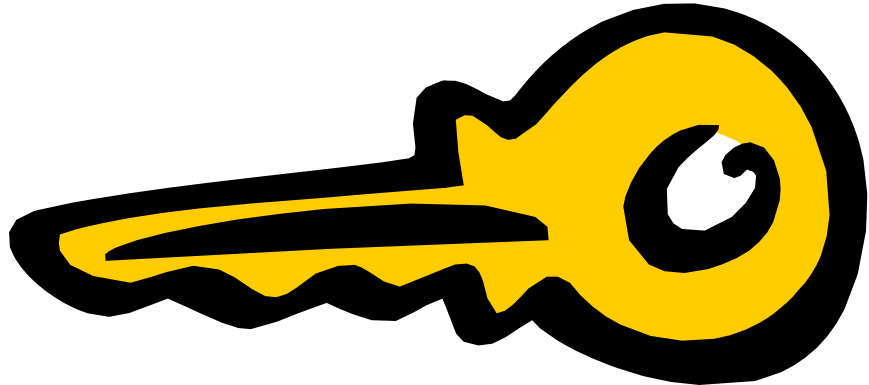


NEED HOUSING?

Where to begin...

Establish an income. If you are unable to secure employment it is highly recommended that you apply for Temporary Assistance (TA) immediately at Window #7 of the Rath Building (158 Pearl St.). Cash assistance can take 30 days for families and 45 days for individuals to activate. At the Rath Building you can also apply for other income support programs like Food Stamps, Medicaid, and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).



What is considered “affordable housing”?

As a simple guideline housing is considered affordable if the cost of rent or mortgage, as well as utilities, is equal to **30% of your total monthly income**. If you can find an apartment at or near 30% of your overall income, call the landlord to determine if it is available. Don't be afraid to negotiate rent with a landlord.

What about Section 8 Housing?

It is recommended that you apply for Section 8 assistance. However, this will not serve your immediate housing needs. The Section 8 wait list is approximately 5-7 years. Visit the **Belmont Shelter Corporation** to apply, as well as learn more about other housing options.

Where to find affordable apartments:

-Belmont Shelter Corporation (1195 Main St., 884-7791)
Ask them for an affordable housing list as well as a “Mod Rehab” list; this is a list of apartments that have Section 8 attached to them but not to you, making them more affordable even if you do not qualify for Section 8. If you have access to the internet, you can also access the Belmont Shelter On-Line Apartment Search Database. Go to: <http://www.belmonthousingwny.org>

-Rental Assistance Center (470 Franklin St., 882-0063)
Has Section 8, including vouchers specifically for the homeless.

-Braco I (352 Franklin St., 852-3303)
Has subsidized apartments throughout Buffalo.

-Wingate Mgmt Co. (491 Connecticut St., 881-2233)
Has subsidized apartments throughout Buffalo.

-Delta Development of WNY, Inc. (525 Washington St., 847-1635)
Has affordable rents including most utilities.

-Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (245 Elmwood, 855-6774)
Has subsidized apartments throughout Buffalo as well as Section 8.

I've been threatened with eviction because of rental debt. What can I do?

You can apply for emergency rental assistance from the Department of Social Services (DSS). Go to the Housing Unit located on the first floor of the Rath Building.

You must show that you are being evicted because you owe back rent (arrear). **DSS requires court papers or a letter from your landlord threatening to sue you if you don't pay.** The letter from your landlord should have a breakdown of the exact months and amounts you owe.

If you go to Window #5 or #6 at DSS and tell the worker that you have an emergency, you must be seen that day. Any denial of assistance must be in writing. If DSS is willing to help but needs more documentation from you, you should be given a list of items needed and a date to return. If your emergency need must be met the same day, DSS must issue cash or a "guarantee letter" that day. If DSS denies your request, **the denial must be in writing.** To challenge a denial of assistance or apply for rental assistance with other agencies you must have your denial in writing.

If DSS refuses to pay your back rent, and your landlord is threatening to evict you, call Neighborhood Legal Services immediately at 847-0650 and ask for the Housing Unit. They will review DSS's decision with you and determine if you should challenge the decision. They may agree to take your case.

I've been denied rental assistance by DSS, what else can I do?

There are agencies in Buffalo that will supply rental assistance or security deposit assistance when funds are available for those who qualify and have a denial **in writing** from DSS.

-Crisis Services (834-3131)

-Hispanics United of Buffalo (254 Virginia St., 856-7110)

-Buffalo Urban League (15 Genesee St., 854-7625)

-Catholic Charities (525 Washington St., 856-4494)

-Community Action Organization (99 Harvard Place, 881-5150)

If you are homeless or in immediate need of housing:

From 9 am - 5 pm you can visit Windows #5 or #6 at the Rath Building (158 Pearl St.) and they will provide emergency assistance if you are eligible. **If it is after 5pm call Crisis Services at 834-3131** and they will be able to link you with shelter.

You can also contact shelters directly and ask for a bed. These are a few of the larger shelters in Buffalo:

City Mission
(for men)
100 E. Tupper St.
845-8181

Cornerstone Manor
(for women and children)
150 E. North St.
852-0761

Little Portions
(for adults)
1305 Main Street
882-5705

Salvation Army
(for families)
960 Main St.
884-4798



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For more information visit:
<http://www.wnyhomeless.org>