

Section 9 – Moving Out



Even if you are not ready to take the plunge and live on your own, you should still work on being as independent as possible. Doing things for yourself will make you less dependent on others to meet your basic needs. If you are seriously thinking about moving into your own place, you should know a few things.

There is usually a wait for an accessible place to live. Louisiana has a shortage of these types of properties. But thanks to discrimination laws, people can rent apartments or homes that only need reasonable changes. That can mean changes to the inside or outside of a unit as well as common areas. If the rental property received any federal help covered by both FHA and

Section 504, the owner must pay for the needed changes unless he or she can prove they can't afford it. All other properties without this federal assistance do not have to pay for any of the changes. In that case, the person moving in would need to cover the cost. These alterations are typically things like ramps, wider doorways, accessible showers, and shower bars.

Also, landlords expect tenants to keep their places clean. They also have to do things like change light bulbs and a/c filters and unclog minor clogs in the toilet and sink. Keeping your home clean means washing your dirty dishes daily. You will need to vacuum, sweep and mop your floors weekly. You need to clean your kitchen and bathroom weekly and keep things tidy. You also have to pay rent on time, every month. If you are using social security to help pay for rent and you know your check doesn't get to the bank until the 3rd of the month, you need to tell your landlord. Otherwise, you may have to pay late fees after the 1st of the month. If you think you do not make enough money to move out, you should contact Louisiana Housing Corporation about their Permanent Supportive Housing Program.



Moving out for the first time can be expensive. If you rent, you'll probably need to pay two months' rent upfront. You will also have to pay deposits for all of your utilities, like electric, gas, and water. You'll need to have some basic furniture, like a bed and some chairs and tables. Homes need things like bed linens, towels, pots, pans, plates, utensils, and glasses. You will need things like a vacuum cleaner, broom, a mop, and other cleaning supplies. Some of your first purchases may include fun things like a TV, radio, and computer. Often you do not need to purchase all these things brand new. You can always ask friends and family members if they have items they are getting rid of. You can shop for used items at yard sales or thrift stores. And you can make an Amazon Wish List online and share it with friends and family for upcoming birthdays.

Resources

Reasonable Modifications Under Fair Housing Act

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/FHEO/documents/reasonable_modifications_mar08.pdf

Fair Housing Guide to Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

<https://www.equalhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fair-Housing-Guide-to-Reasonable-Accommodations-and-Modifications.pdf>

Louisiana Housing Corporation

<https://www.lhc.la.gov/>

Checklist

Independent Living Skills	I Can Do This	I Need to Practice	I'm Going To Start	I Will Always Need Support	This doesn't apply to me	Notes
FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can create a list of things I want in my new home						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can decide how close I want to live to people and places important to me						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can decide how accessible my new home needs to be						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can decide what type of housing I want or need						
<input type="checkbox"/> I know where to look to find a new home						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that if I need any type of government assistance to pay for rent, I might have to be placed on a waiting list						
BEING A RENTER						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand what it means to be a renter, tenant, or lessee						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand what an owner, landlord, or lessor means						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand I do not own the property and cannot make changes without the approval of the owner or property manager						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the difference between renting and buying						

Independent Living Skills	I Can Do This	I Need to Practice	I'm Going To Start	I Will Always Need Support	This doesn't apply to me	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand if I sign a lease it will include specific expectations						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can explain rent						
<input type="checkbox"/> I am able to fill out a rental application						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that things like electricity, gas, water, cable TV and internet is usually not included in my rent						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that I may not be able to have everything I want						
THE DOLLARS BEHIND RENTING						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that I'll have to pay a security deposit						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that some owners require the first and last month's rent paid in advance						
<input type="checkbox"/> I know I will probably need to pay separately for things like electricity, gas, water, internet, and cable TV						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand a roommate could help pay for rent and other costs						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand my rent is due on a specific date and if I don't pay it by that day, I'll have a late fee to pay						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand what eviction means						

Independent Living Skills	I Can Do This	I Need to Practice	I'm Going To Start	I Will Always Need Support	This doesn't apply to me	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand if I don't pay my rent, I can be evicted						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand "wants" vs. "needs"						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can create a housing budget						
SOCIALIZATION						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can explain the pros and cons of having a roommate						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the rights of other residents and myself in regard to property and noise						
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand the consequences if the rights of other residents are not respected						
<input type="checkbox"/> I know what to do in the event of conflict with another resident or the landlord						
<input type="checkbox"/> I know I am responsible for the actions of any guests that visit me						
START UP EXPECTATIONS						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can identify what I will need for my new home						
<input type="checkbox"/> I know how to find the things I need for my new home						
<input type="checkbox"/> I can calculate start-up costs (Utility deposits, connection fees, furniture, cooking utensils, cleaning supplies, etc.)						