

SECURING HOUSING



A critical aspect of preparing for the newcomer's arrival is finding and securing their first home.

WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN LOOKING FOR HOUSING

Your group will need to find decent, safe, and sanitary housing for the newcomers. Finding housing is often a challenge, so be sure to give yourselves enough time to research possible locations to ensure it will be a suitable first home for the newcomers.

RESETTLEMENT LOCATION

Newcomers fare best in communities where they have access to public transportation, employment opportunities, English classes, schools, connections to their community, and affordable housing.

- Take time to analyze possible locations. How walkable is the area? Can they access public transportation? Is there a market close enough to walk to? If there will be children, how close are the schools? Would they be able to access potential jobs within 20 minutes on public transportation or by walking or biking? How close is it to people from their community?
- Research 2, 3, and 4-bedroom apartments and/or rental houses. In the instance that you are matched with a larger family, you may need to find a 3-to-4-bedroom apartment or house.
- Be sure to coordinate housing plans with the U.S. Tie, when possible.

SAFETY

- Undertake research on prospective landlords to ensure they have a good record.
- Talk to landlords who offer affordable housing and to people in the neighborhood to get a sense for how safe and welcoming the area is.
- Check police reports for the property or apartment address and search on the internet for news related to landlord or management company.
- Team members must keep in mind that housing standards may be different from what they are used to in order to be affordable for newcomers.

AFFORDABILITY

It is critical that newcomers will be able to afford the housing on their own at the end of the three-to-six-month financial assistance period. Before you begin, contact World Relief for a price range on the following housing types:

- 2-bedroom apartment
- 3-bedroom apartment
- 4-bedroom apartment

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Sample [Letter to Prospective Landlords](#)
- Site Visit Housing Checklist: Ask World Relief for this document. It will need to be filled out and logged in case notes.