

Instructions: This document is meant to assist Bridges applicants in finding a rental unit.

Where to Look

- Check online doing a search for rental housing in the area the applicant wishes to live. You can also search management company websites for possible vacancies in the area.
- Check with friends, relatives, and/or neighbors.
- Look for yard signs offering “Apartment/House for Rent” in the area the applicant wants to live.
- Check with real estate offices or rental agencies. (**NOTE:** You may be required to pay a fee, and payment of a fee does not guarantee that you will find suitable housing.)
- Call HousingLink and ask for a listing of units for rent in the area the applicant would like to live. HousingLink can be reached at 612.522.2500 or www.housinglink.org

Questions to Ask Prospective Landlords

- What is the number of bedrooms in the rental unit?
- How much is the rent?
- What utilities, if any, are included in the rent? What utility costs will the renter have to pay?
- Are there any special restrictions, such as no pets or no children?

Make an Appointment

If the housing for rent might be what the applicant is looking for, ask for an appointment to see it. Be sure to keep the appointment and be on time. The applicant may want to arrive early to look around the neighborhood. The applicant should not take a lot of friends or children with them to look at the apartment; the applicant will want to give their full attention to discussing the rental unit and to presenting themselves well.

Negotiating the Lease

If the applicant finds a unit they like, make sure the rent is within the Maximum Allowable Rents (ask the Bridges Housing Agency for this number). Contact your Bridges Housing Agency to verify that the rent meets the guidelines and that the unit is in a community covered by Bridges.