



# How to Find Housing: A Guide for Individuals Who Have Been Approved for a DDD Housing Subsidy Administered through the Supportive Housing Connection (SHC)

## Getting Help with the Search for a Rental Unit

If you were approved for a DDD housing subsidy administered through the Supportive Housing Connection, you can work with your support coordinator to determine whether you need help searching for a rental unit. If you do need help, your support coordinator can:

- Help you find a natural support to help you search for a rental unit.
- Use your DDD budget to pay a support person to help you search for a rental unit (if a natural support is not available).

## Tools to Help You Search for a Rental Unit

There are many tools to help a person search for a rental unit. The ones below are a good place to start.

- [New Jersey Housing Resource Center](#)
- [Apartments.com](#)
- [Zillow](#)
- [Hotpads](#)

Once you find a possible rental unit, you will need to call the landlord to find out whether the unit is available. If it is, you may want to visit the unit and complete an application. Sometimes there are fees required to complete an application, which you would be responsible to pay. If you are approved for a unit, you also are responsible for any other fees, such as association fees, pet fees, renter's insurance, key fees, and amenity fees.

## Help with One-time Costs

It is important to talk with your support coordinator and/or your natural or paid support person about all the costs involved with moving into a rental unit. Costs related to physically moving your belongings into a rental unit cannot be paid through the housing subsidy or your DDD budget. However, if you need help with one-time costs, such as security deposits for the rental unit or utilities, or basic household furnishings, DDD may be able to help. To learn more about this type of help, contact DDD's Housing Subsidy Unit by email at [DDD.HousingSubsidy@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.HousingSubsidy@dhs.nj.gov) or by phone at 732-968-4222.

## Other Types of Assistance

- **NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (NJ SNAP)** – Formerly known as *food stamps*, NJ SNAP is a program that helps with buying food. You can apply for NJ SNAP in person at your local County Board of Social Services or online at [NJ SNAP](#).
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** – This program helps people pay for some utilities on an ongoing basis. For more information, or to find out whether you qualify, call 800-510-3102 or visit [LIHEAP](#).
- **Lifeline (Free Smartphone Program)** – This federal program provides eligible low-income individuals with a free smartphone and free wireless phone service (free data, free monthly minutes and unlimited texting). If you receive Medicaid, NJ SNAP or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) you automatically qualify for the Lifeline (Free Smartphone Program). For more information, or to find out whether you qualify, visit [Lifeline \(Free Smartphone Program\)](#).
- **Lifeline (Internet Assistance)** – This federal program lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service for people who are eligible. For more information, or to find out whether you qualify, visit [Lifeline Support](#).

## A Note for Support Coordinators

If a natural support is not available to help an individual in their search for a rental unit, you can use the **Community Based Supports** service to pay for a support person. In addition to the standard service documentation required for Community Based Supports, a support person paid to help a person search for a rental unit *may* be required to:

- Document the use of the tools listed above to search for a rental unit.
- Document phone calls made to a landlord to verify whether rental units were available.
- Document the date and time of any visit where the paid support person took the individual to tour a potential rental unit, obtain an application, and/or meet a landlord.
- Document any visit where the paid support person helped the individual apply as needed for other forms of assistance, including but not limited to energy assistance and NJ SNAP.

## Links in this Document

New Jersey Housing Resource Center	<a href="http://www.nj.gov/njhrc">www.nj.gov/njhrc</a>
Apartments.com	<a href="http://www.apartments.com">www.apartments.com</a>
Zillow	<a href="http://www.zillow.com">www.zillow.com</a>
Hotpads	<a href="https://hotpads.com/nj/apartments-for-rent">https://hotpads.com/nj/apartments-for-rent</a>
NJ SNAP	<a href="http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/app">www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/app</a>
LIHEAP	<a href="http://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/hea.shtml">www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/hea.shtml</a>
Lifeline (Free Smartphone Program)	<a href="http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/home/digitalaccessforall.shtml">www.nj.gov/humanservices/home/digitalaccessforall.shtml</a>
Lifeline Support (Internet Assistance)	<a href="http://www.lifelinesupport.org">www.lifelinesupport.org</a>