

## **Tips for your Housing Search**

Looking for housing can be daunting. There are a variety of things to consider when looking for a place to use your Voucher.

- 1- IMPORTANT: You can use your Voucher at your current residence -Talk to your landlord first! This is the fastest way to get Housing Assistance.**

### **Otherwise...**

- 2- Look at the current years' Payment Standards.** This is included in this packet so that you are aware of the maximum monthly assistance payment (by bedroom size) you might be Eligible for. Your monthly portion of the rent must be between 30%-40% of your monthly income to be eligible.

- 3- Review the landlord list provided** in this packet (also listed on our website as described above) Start by calling and enquiring about openings.

- a- Explain to the landlord(s) and /or property manager(s) that you have an active voucher and are currently looking for housing.
- b- The Voucher will provide the number of bedrooms your household may initially look for. Landlords may only have units available that are smaller (less bedrooms) or larger (more bedrooms) than what's on your Voucher. You may take a smaller unit as long as it meets HUD's minimum occupancy standards. Should you find a larger unit, please be aware that you may be responsible in paying for the monetary difference in bedroom size. However, you might still be eligible. Reach out to your eligibility team if you have any questions regarding bedroom size.
- c- Think about: Do you have landlord references that you can offer to prospective landlords?

- 4- Search within CHA's jurisdictional areas:** [Laramie County, Buffalo, Laramie, Sheridan, Rawlins, Lander, Riverton, Cody, Powell, Gillette, Wright]

- Search online: You can use websites like:
  - Apartment Guide: Allows you to filter by location, price, and number of bedrooms
  - Rent.com: Has a blog about apartments that accept Section 8
  - Zillow
  - Facebook Market Place (If you have Facebook)
- Ask friends and family: They may be able to recommend private landlords that accept vouchers.
- Network: Chat with local community organizations, landlords, and current Section 8 tenants.
- Consider real estate agents: They can help you navigate the process.