University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange

Financial Management | UT Extension Publications

8-1-2001

SP582 Finding a Home to Rent That You Can Afford

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexfinman

Part of the Finance and Financial Management Commons

Recommended Citation
"SP582 Finding a Home to Rent That You Can Afford," The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, SP582-5M-8/01 R12-5320-022-001-02 E12-5315-00-015-02, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexfinman/17

The publications in this collection represent the historical publishing record of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station and do not necessarily reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations. Current information about UT Ag Research can be found at the UT Ag Research website.
This Personal Finances is brought to you for free and open access by the UT Extension Publications at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Financial Management by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

federal listings. Information can also be found on the Internet. The following are the Web addresses of these agencies:

HUD
http://www.hud.gov/renting/index.cfm

THDA
http://www.state.tn.us/thda

USDA
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/individual/ind_splash.htm

Your local city or county's Web page may have information on the local housing authority. If you do not have access to or know how to use the Internet, you can receive assistance from the local public library.

Non-Profit Agencies

Communities often have non-profit agencies that want to help low-income individuals and families find safe, affordable housing. They may renovate or build homes that can then be sold or rented. The local housing authority may know if any of these agencies are in your community. Churches, libraries and community centers may also assist you in finding out if there are any of these agencies in your community. Habitat for Humanity is one agency that may be in your area.

Privately Owned Units

Rental units that are owned by private individuals or companies are often available in most communities. The rent can range from affordable to very expensive. Once you know how much you can afford to pay for rent, you can then determine if you can afford to rent in a privately owned unit.

References

Merrill, J., Roder, B., Terry, K., and Thomas, P. (1999). Rent Smart. Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin.

Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA). (2001). http://www.state.tn.us/thda. Accessed January 10, 2001.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). (2001). http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. Accessed January 10, 2001.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (2001). http://www.hud.gov Accessed January 10, 2001.

Strengthen Your Family Through Education. This information is provided by your local University of Tennessee Extension Office.

SP582-5M-8/01
R12-5320-022-001-02
E12-5315-00-015-02

The Agricultural Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and county governments cooperating in furtherance of Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Agricultural Extension Service, Charles L. Norman, Dean

Agricultural Extension Service
The University of Tennessee
SP582

Finding a Home to Rent That You Can Afford

Finding a Home to Rent That You Can Afford

Martha W. Keel, Associate Professor, Family & Consumer Sciences, The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service.

Finding an Affordable Home to Rent

Finding a nice, affordable place to rent can be a difficult task. Affordable housing is not always listed in the newspapers, and may be more difficult to find than more expensive housing. But, if you know where to look, who to talk to, what questions to ask, and what agencies can help you, your search will be easier. And, your reward will be finding a nice home you will be able to afford for you and your family.

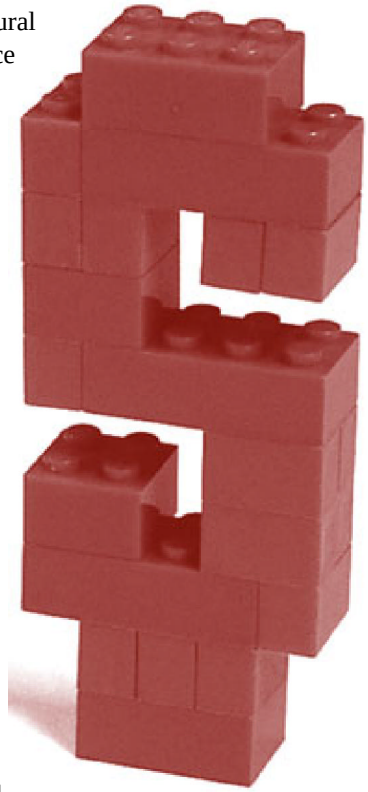
Local Housing Authority

Many communities have a local housing authority that may own and manage rental units. These units may be in apartment buildings, single-family houses or duplexes (two-family dwellings) that are located throughout the community. You must meet certain qualifications, however, to be able to rent one of these units. One qualification, for example, may be that your family income cannot be over a certain amount of money. Call your local housing authority to locate these units and to learn more about the qualifications for renting. Check the phone book under the local or county government section (blue pages) and then under housing authority. You may be able to put your name on a waiting list if all these units are rented. These housing developments may have other benefits, such as on-site day care, community resource centers and home ownership options.

Rent Assistance

Several programs are designed to help limited-resource individuals and families pay their rent. Some of these include:

- Public housing that is run by the local housing authority.
- Section 8 Vouchers, covering all or part of the rent at a place you choose.
- Privately owned housing where the government provides assistance to the owner who then rents units at a lower cost.
- Other programs, such as HUD's (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) HOME program, which works with local housing authorities and THDA's (Tennessee Housing Development Agency) HOUSE program.
- In rural areas, the USDA's (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Rural Housing Service may offer rent assistance through their Section 521 Rental Assistance Program. Check with your local Rural Development office.



To check the availability of these programs in your area, look in the government section of your phone book, under local, county, state and