

SURVIVAL SKILLS

Looking for Housing

A Product of the
Geneseo Migrant Center
27 Lackawanna Ave.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

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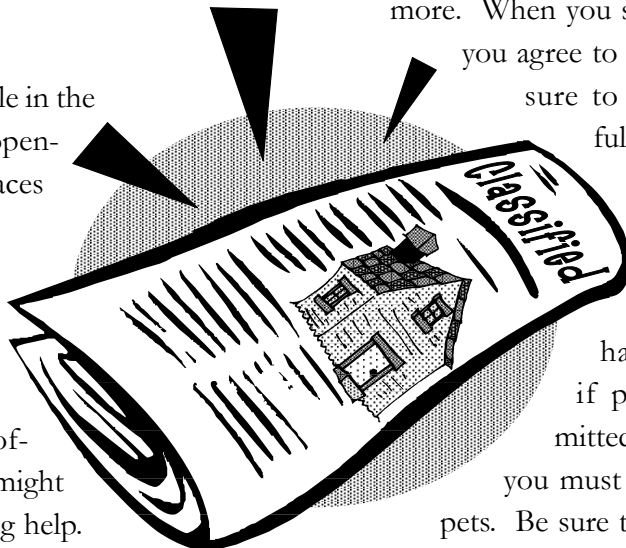
Where will you look for housing? How will you go about it? Looking for housing is not easy. Be sure to allow time. It may take you days to find what you want.

What will you want?

- Where will you want to live? Will you need transportation to get to work? Do you need to find housing close to your job?
- Do you want a place furnished or unfurnished?
- How much can you afford to pay each month?
- How many rooms will you need?

Where to look

- If you know people in the area, ask about openings and good places to live.
- Check newspaper listings and shoppers' guides.
- Check with the county housing office to see if you might qualify for housing help.



Questions you will want to ask

- How much is the rent each month?
- Are utilities (electricity and heat) included in the rent? This is a big question. If not, find out how much utilities will cost.
- Is there a deposit? (A deposit is money paid in addition to rent as "security." The landlord is protected against renters who damage property or don't pay the rent.)
- How can I get the deposit back when I leave? (If you leave the property in good, clean condition and have paid your rent, you should get the deposit back.)
- Will there be a lease? How long is the lease? (A lease is a paper that lists all the rules that you and the landlord must follow. The lease could be for months or a year or more. When you sign the lease, you agree to the rules. Be sure to read it carefully. Ask questions if you do not understand.)
- If you have pets, ask if pets are permitted. Sometimes you must pay extra for pets. Be sure to check.

Finding a good place to live is important to you. Look carefully and ask questions. ■