

Low Income Housing Providers in Seattle

Seattle is an expensive city. These organizations make rental properties available to people who earn less money.

Bellwether Housing // www.bellwetherhousing.org

Bellwether provides affordable apartments that enable low-wage working people, their families, and low-income seniors to live independently throughout their lives. Visit their website to use the “Find Your Apartment” search tool and see if you income-qualify for any available apartments. If you are interested in an available unit, contact the building manager directly. Section 8 vouchers are welcome and there are some properties with subsidized unit waiting lists for seniors and/or disabled applicants.

Capitol Hill Housing // 206.325.6483 // www.capitolhillhousing.org

Like Bellwether, CHH posts available units on their website daily. These units are at fixed rates, and require that your income be 2.5 times the amount of rent. CHH buildings are all over Seattle, not just Capitol Hill. If you do not have an income, CHH operates some buildings with 30% of your income units that are open to certain eligible individuals. The waiting lists are long, but you can apply at the URS.

Catholic Community Services // 206.328.5696 // www.ccsww.org

CCS operates numerous transitional and permanent housing buildings around King County. They update their website fairly frequently, so that can be a good way to look for openings. It might be better to look for a property that you are eligible for, and see if you can get on their waiting list. You can apply for many of their properties at the URS.

Compass Housing Alliance // 206.357.3100 // www.compasshousingalliance.org

Maybe you have visited the Compass Center or the Adult Services Center—both are a part of CHA. CHA has permanent and transitional housing options in Seattle. Visit their website or HousingSearchNW.org to learn more.

Downtown Emergency Service Center // 206.464.1570 // www.desc.org

DESC is well known for their no-barrier shelter, but DESC also has several buildings in the downtown Seattle area. To get housing with DESC, you have to take a vulnerability assessment at DESC, because priority is given to people who are most at risk. To take the vulnerability assessment, just check in at DESC to set up an appointment, or ask your case manager or someone at the URS to request one online. Ask a staff member at DESC about your options for obtaining supportive housing.

Low Income Housing Institute // 206.443.9935 // www.lihi.org

LIHI has over 20 low income properties around Seattle. Eligibility for each building varies. If you have little to no income, the Glen Hotel, Martin Court, the Frye Apartments, Arion Court, and more have 30% of your income units. You can fill out applications at the URS for these some of these properties. If you do have a steady income, you might qualify for other units. Contact properties directly to learn if they have any openings. Be sure to look around the URS for posters about recent openings.

Pioneer Human Services // 206.624.0082 // www.pioneerhumanservices.org

Pioneer offers transitional, permanent and veterans housing for men and women with criminal histories and/or in substance abuse recovery across Washington State. The transitional housing program accepts people with criminal history or who do not have a credit history, but the program has a strict policy on clean and sober living and residents are subject to random urine analysis tests. Transitional apartments come up for rent fairly frequently and are on a first-come, first-serve basis with fixed annual rents. The permanent programs provide housing for singles, double occupancy and families with criminal history who are supportive of a clean and sober living environment, have verifiable income and a consistent rental history within the last twelve months. Veterans housing is for males only who have a general or honorable discharge from the military. You can download applications off Pioneer’s website or fill out applications for

Tacoma and Seattle transitional housing at the Urban Rest Stop (be sure to read up on all the requirements on the Pioneer website!).

Plymouth Housing // 206.652.8325 // www.plymouthhousing.org

Plymouth's waitlist is closed to new applications for subsidized supportive housing. Check their website to see if there is affordable rental housing available in your price range. From their website home page, click on the box that says "See Available Rental Housing." You can ask a Rest Stop staff member to help you look. The website lists qualifications, income requirements, and leasing information.

SCIDpda // 206.624.8929 // www.scidpda.org

With units around the international district, Seattle Chinatown International District provides numerous low income rental units to all who qualify. You must have a positive rental history with references, have an income that is two and a half times the amount of rent, be a legal resident of the US, and have a clean criminal history. You can fill out a general rental application form at the URS.

Seattle Housing Authority // 206.239.1737 // www.seattlehousing.org

SHA manages a great deal of 30% of your income properties in Seattle. They have a quick, easy application that is available to everyone. However, the waiting lists for their apartments are long (usually 2-10 years), and you can only apply for two properties. You also have to call in every month to secure your place on the waiting list. They also have a section 8 voucher program, but the waiting list has been closed for some time.

Questions you should ask when looking for housing:

Do I match the eligibility requirements for this property?

Some properties are looking for a certain kind of tenant. Maybe it's only for people with disabilities. Maybe it is only for men in recovery. Always make sure you're a good match before you apply!

Do I match the income requirements for this property?

All low income properties have income requirements, but they're all different. Some properties want to make sure you aren't making too much money—others want to make sure you aren't making too little.

Would I like the rules at this property?

Some properties have strict rules about drug use, church attendance, building maintenance, having guests over, and much more. Some people like having lots of rules; others do not.

Does it matter if I have a criminal history?

A background check will be conducted for almost every property you apply for. If you have a criminal background, look up the eligibility requirements for the property, or ask the manager. Some properties are more relaxed about criminal background, but others are not.

Does it matter if I have a bad credit or rental history?

Like having a criminal history, a bad credit or rental history can affect your ability to apply for housing. Look up that property's requirements, or ask the manager.
