

APPLYING FOR PUBLIC AND SUBSIDIZED HOUSING IN RHODE ISLAND

This handbook has been prepared for you by

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I. INTRODUCTION

There are several types of subsidized housing in Rhode Island. Most of the eligibility rules are the same for all types of housing, but some of the application procedures are different. This page will explain the basic information you need to apply for any subsidized housing in Rhode Island.

II. WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Generally, you are eligible for public housing, subsidized housing or Section 8 housing if your family income is within limits set by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). You can contact the local [HUD](#) office at (401) 528-5351 to find out the current income limits.

If you live alone, you generally are not eligible unless you fall within the HUD income limits and you are elderly, handicapped or disabled. Some of the various housing developments in Rhode Island are set aside especially for the elderly, handicapped and disabled. In those developments, families who do not have an elderly, handicapped or disabled family member will not be eligible to move in.

- An **elderly** person is someone who is 62 years of age or older.
- A **disabled** person is someone who is eligible for disability benefits from the Social Security Administration, or who has a severe physical or mental disability which began before the age of 22, is likely to continue, and greatly interferes with his or her life.
- A **handicapped** person is someone who has a long-standing physical or mental impairment which interferes with his or her ability to live alone, and whose life will be improved by a more suitable living arrangement.

III. WHERE TO APPLY

a. Public Housing and Section 8 Certificates

To apply for public housing or for a Section 8 Certificate, you should call the housing authority in your city or town. A list of the housing authorities is located at the end of this document. If your city or town does not have a housing authority, call the Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations at (401) 277-2892.

b. Section 8 and Other Subsidized Housing

There are approximately 150 Section 8 and other subsidized developments in Rhode Island. There is no central place to make an application for all of these developments at one time. You must make an application at each of the specific developments you want to move into.

A listing of the Section 8 and subsidized developments in Rhode Island, according to location, can be obtained by following [this link](#) or by calling RILS at (401) 274-2652. You should call the specific project to which you want to apply for information on how to apply.

IV. HOW TO APPLY

Whether you apply for public housing and for a Section 8 certificate, or whether you apply to a Section 8 or other subsidized housing development, the basic rules are the same.

You should go to or call the appropriate management office and file a **written application**. You should be prepared to provide information about your family's makeup and income, such as birth certificates and pay stubs. You may also be asked to give the name and address of your present landlord. He or she will probably be called and asked whether you are a good tenant and whether you take care of your apartment and pay your rent on time. These questions are allowed.

Within a few weeks you should be notified in writing whether you are eligible for the apartment. If you are eligible, and there are no apartments available, you should be put on a waiting list. If you are told that you

are not eligible, you should be told the specific reasons that you are not eligible, such as over-income, bad rent paying history, etc.

If you disagree with the reasons listed, you should ask for a chance to tell your side of the story. If you are applying for public housing or for certain Section 8 developments, you have the right to a **grievance hearing**. The notice you receive should explain how to ask for the grievance.

For other types of subsidized housing, the review process is less formal. However, you should still contact the manager to give your side of the story. If you believe that your rejection is unlawful, you may want to get further advice about your rights.

There is a severe shortage of subsidized housing of all types in Rhode Island, so even if you are found eligible, you will probably be placed on a waiting list. The wait may be several years long. You should call the management office every six months to let them know that you are still interested in the apartment, and to see where you are on the waiting list. Some developments make the waiting list available to applicants so you can more easily track your progress. You should ask the manager if there is a **publicly posted waiting list**.

V. RHODE ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITIES

(alphabetized by town/city)

For a complete list of subsidized and public housing in Rhode Island, see the RILS list of [Public and Subsidized Housing in Rhode Island](#)

Bristol HA 1014 Hope Street 253-4464	Burrillville HA Chapel Street 568-6200
Central Falls HA Central Office 30 Washington Street 724-6980 Wilfred Manor 466 Hunt Street 724-0330 Forand Manor 30 Washington Street 728-3590	Coventry HA 14 Manchester Circle 828-4367 Mulhearn Street 828-3334
Cranston HA Central Office 50 Birch Street 944-7210 Arlington Manor 50 Birch Street 944-7210	Cumberland HA One Mendon Road 724-8590
East Greenwich HA 205 Main Street 885-2610	East Providence HA 3668 Pawtucket Avenue 433-2555
Glocester HA Chestnut Hill Road 568-5100	Jamestown HA P.O. Box 464 423-2929
Johnston HA 8 Forand Circle 231-2007	Lincoln HA 10 Franklin Street 724-8910
Narragansett HA The Towers Ocean Road 789-1044	Newport HA One Park Holm 847-0185
North Providence HA	Pawtucket HA

945 Charles Street 728-0930	214 Roosevelt Avenue 725-9113
Plainville HA Hilltop TerracE 699-4212	Portsmouth HA P.O. Box 118 683-3173
Providence HA 100 Broad Street 751-6400	Scituate HA Rockland Road 647-2276
Smithfield HA 7 Church Street Greenfield 949-0270	South Kingstown HA P.O. Box 6 783-0126
Tiverton HA 99 Hancock Street 624-4748	Warren HA 20 Libby Lane 245-7019
Warwick HA 25 Eaton Avenue 463-7206 3110 West Shore Road 738-7880	West Warwick HA 62 Roberts Street 828-6300 1021 Main Street 822-0112
Westerly HA Chestnut Court 596-4918	Woonsocket HA 679 Social Street 767-8000

For the following cities/towns contact Governor's Office of Housing, Energy and Intergovernmental Relations/State House, Room 116, (401) 277-2850:

- Barrington
- Charlestown
- Foster
- Hopkinton
- Little Compton
- North Kingstown Middletown
- North Smithfield Exeter
- Richmond
- West Greenwich