

# HOUSING

## Renting your own apartment

In order to rent your own apartment you must have good credit and a steady income. Some landlords may be willing to rent to a person with no credit history by either allowing a responsible adult to co-sign your lease (that adult will be responsible for the rent if you can't pay), or charging you a higher security deposit.

Be prepared with information that the landlord will want to know such as current and previous places of residence and lengths of stay, employment information (employer, salary and length of employment), employment history, driver's license or California ID, social security number, and personal references. You may also have to pay a fee for the landlord to check your credit. Be aware that looking for an apartment is like looking for a job. When meeting a landlord or apartment manager, make sure that you look presentable (dress for success).

### Still interested?

- Consider how much rent you can afford [*30% of your net income (take home pay) is a general guideline*];
- Decide what area you want to live in;
- Check newspaper classified ads, apartment rental services, research apartments for rent online, tour the area by car or on foot to notice "For Rent" signs, ask friends, and check college campus bulletin boards; and
- Consider looking for a roommate to save money. If you don't know anybody you can try a roommate finder service, or check the classified ads in the newspaper.

### Resources: (There are fees for these services)

Westside Rentals (800) 736-8005 [www.westsiderentals.com](http://www.westsiderentals.com) or [www.Rent.com](http://www.Rent.com) or Easy Roommate (800) 877-2557 [www.easyroommate.com](http://www.easyroommate.com)

Also available for ILP-eligible youth is rental and dorm assistance. This may include apartment start-up funds and move-in security deposits. Discuss details with your ILP Transition Coordinator.

**FREE ADVICE: Talk to your ILP/Transition Coordinator and/or visit your nearest Transition Resource Center.**