



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is any emergency housing available?

A: No

Q: What are the qualifications for housing assistance?

A: There are three eligibility requirements:

1. Head of household must be 18 years of age or older or legally emancipated.
2. Meet income guidelines. Contact us for specific details on current income guidelines.
3. Be a United States Citizen or a Legal Immigrant.

Q: How do I apply for housing?

A: Applications may be obtained from our website www.mcdonoughcountyhousing.org/apply or at the Housing Authority of McDonough County, 322 West Piper Street, Macomb, IL 61455. You may also call our office to request that we send you an application through the mail.

Q: Is there anything I need to submit with my application?

A: See the "Apply" Section. Please be sure to submit any verification documents with your application to ensure your application is processed successfully and as quickly as possible.

Q: How will I be contacted when I get to the top of the waiting list?

A: All contacts are made via U.S. mail, so it is very important that you keep the Housing Authority informed of any mailing address changes. You will receive a letter when you near the top of the waiting list. You will have a limited time to respond. If you do not respond in a timely manner, your name may be removed from the waiting list.

Q: What happens after I apply?

A: If you meet eligibility requirements, you will receive a letter stating that you have been placed on the waiting list. When your name nears the top of the list, you will be sent a letter asking you to contact the Housing Authority for your final application. All adults in the household are required to participate in an "in person" interview. Your application will then be verified including rental history and criminal and credit background checks. If approved for admission, a housing offer will be made.

Q: How big of an apartment can I get?

A: Apartment sizes are based on family size, not the number of belongings one possesses.

Q: How do I know where I am on the waiting list?

A: It's complicated. We don't want to give you a wrong answer and the waiting list changes regularly because it is organized by date and time of application, as well as verified preferences. The Housing Authority can only confirm that you are on the waiting list.

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Q: What needs to happen to sign a lease?

A: You will be offered housing when your final application is completed and an apartment that meets your family's needs is available. An appointment will be made for you to meet with Housing Authority staff to sign the lease and complete the move in process. At that time, you will need to:

- Pay Security deposit (\$150 for Public Housing; Rate varies for Voucher and Multifamily Housing)
- Pay any rent due for the month you are moving in
- Pay pet deposit and provide pet verification (if appropriate)
- Have utilities turned on (if tenant pays these)

Q: How soon will I be able to move in after I sign the lease?

A: You will receive apartment keys the day you sign the lease.

Q: How is my rent determined?

A: HUD states that affordable housing should not be more than 30% of a person's income. Therefore, you can choose one of two options:

- **Flat rent** is market rate rent, or what the apartment would cost on the open market. Ask a manager for details.
- **Income-based** rent is 30% of your family's adjusted gross monthly income or 10% of your family's monthly income, whichever is highest.
- **Minimum rent** is \$50 per month regardless of income.

Utilities are included at Eisenhower Tower and Greenbrier Apartments. Residents at Fitch Manor pay gas and electric and residents at Prairieview Townhomes pay gas. Where residents pay utilities, a utility allowance is factored into rent. The Utility Allowance is an amount determined by the Housing Authority, based on apartment size and local weather factors. That amount is deducted from your calculated rent, which reduces your rent due each month. The Utility Allowance is in place to help families pay their utility bill.

Q: Can I bring my pet?

A: Yes, common household pets are allowed in public housing. Common household pet means an animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, or fish that is traditionally recognized as a companion animal and is kept in the home for pleasure rather than commercial purposes. If you own a pet, please be aware that only 1 dog or 1 cat is allowed in each household and there is a weight limit (max. as adult): Dog - 25 pounds, Cat - 15 pounds. Before a pet can move in the following must be on file in the Housing Authority office:

- Pay \$200 pet deposit
- Proof that all vaccinations are current
- Proof that the animal has been spayed or neutered
- Proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies