

# Introduction & Getting Started

**Finding housing is a big task.** The Finding Home guide was created to help you as you search for housing and find your new home! It gives you the information you need to get you started with your search, including housing options and how to apply, and people who can help you with your search. how to request accommodations and modifications, resources for helping you keep your housing, and worksheets to help you keep track of your efforts.

The Finding Home guide was written by the team at the Compass Helpline, with insight from user-experts - people who've searched for housing themselves or have supported someone else during their housing search. We thank the members of our community who shared their wisdom with us, so that we could share it with you!

## Advice from Our User Experts

We asked our community of housing search user-experts what they thought you should know about your housing search. Here's what they said...

**Finding housing is hard work and takes time.** Be persistent, but patient - with the system and yourself. And make sure to start early. Don't wait until finding housing is an emergency.

**Get support with your search.** Whether it is help with completing applications, someone who can go with you to look at openings, or someone who gives you emotional support when you become overwhelmed - take the support that comes your way.

**Don't rely on any one option.** There's a lot of different types of housing. Apply to as many programs and waitlists as you can to increase your chances. Focus on finding housing that works okay for now. You can continue to look for, even after you find someplace.

**Do a little each day.** Finding housing can be hard. Fill out a few applications or make a few calls each day, to make progress without getting overwhelmed. And make sure to keep track of where you've looked.

**Keep your contact information updated.** Most agencies overseeing housing waitlists will check in with you periodically, to check if you're still interested. If your telephone number, email address, or postal mail address changes, make sure to update this information with the waitlist holder.

**Know your work isn't done after you've found housing.** Being a good tenant and keeping your housing takes work, too!

