

# How to apply for rentals with a housing voucher:

Voucher-holders are protected from source of income discrimination, which means a landlord cannot deny you housing just because you will be paying using a voucher or other government benefits.

**It is illegal for a landlord to tell you they do not accept housing vouchers, and it is illegal to charge you additional fees because you are using a voucher.**



Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) provides free legal advice and representation to low-income residents of DC.

## IF YOU FIND A PLACE YOU WOULD LIKE TO RENT, YOU'LL NEED TO:

### **1** CONFIRM DETAILS

By email or text, ask if the unit is available and confirm the monthly rent amount.

### **2** SCHEDULE A TOUR

Set up a time to see the unit in-person and confirm this time in writing.

### **3** APPLICATION CRITERIA

Ask the landlord for the application criteria in writing.

## TIPS ON APPLYING FOR HOUSING

Do not tell the landlord you have a voucher until after you have confirmed the price, application criteria, and scheduled a tour **in writing**.

When you tell the landlord you have a voucher, give them a copy of the Office for Human Rights Guidance about Source of Income Discrimination in Housing. You can find this document online at [bit.ly/sourceofincomeDC](https://bit.ly/sourceofincomeDC)

Landlords cannot ask you about credit issues, late rent, or unpaid rent that happened before you had a voucher. They also cannot ask you about your income, credit score, or lack of a credit score.

**Have you experienced Source of Income Discrimination?  
Contact NLSP today! Call (202) 832-6577 or visit [nlspp.org](https://nlspp.org)**