

## General Information About Housing/Rent & Utilities

Finding housing as an immigrant in the US can be challenging yet it is still a manageable process. Here are some steps and resources to help you navigate it:

**Research:** Start by researching the housing market in the area where you plan to live. Consider factors such as rental prices, neighborhoods, schools, public transportation options, and proximity to work or other important amenities.

**Budgeting:** Determine your budget for housing, taking into account your income, expenses, and any financial assistance or housing allowances you may be eligible for as a new immigrant.

**Online Listings:** Use online resources such as rental websites, apartment listing platforms, and classified ads to search for available housing options in your desired location. Websites like Zillow, Apartments.com, Craigslist, and Rent.com are popular choices.

**Real Estate Agents:** Consider enlisting the help of a real estate agent or rental agent who is familiar with the local market. They can help you find suitable properties, negotiate leases, and navigate the rental process.

**Network:** Reach out to your network of friends, family, colleagues, or fellow immigrants who may have knowledge of available housing or be able to provide recommendations or referrals.

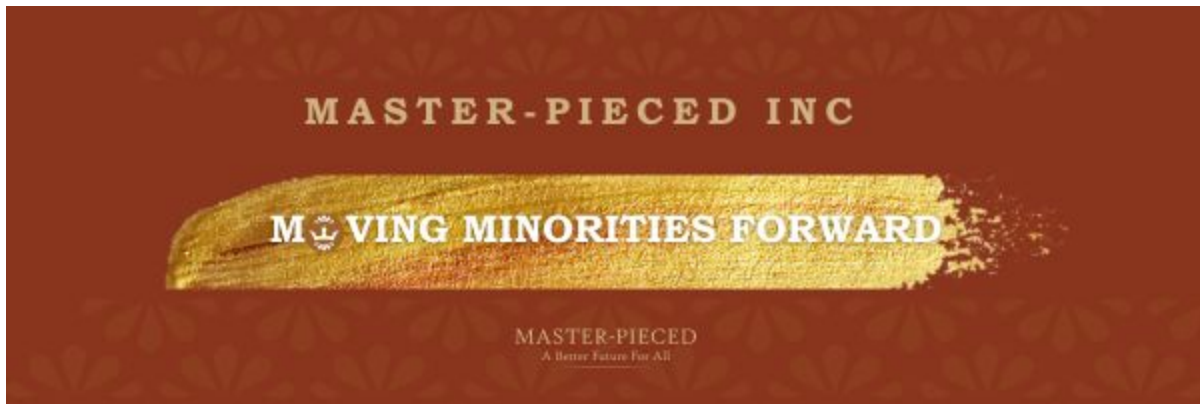
**Government Housing Programs:** Explore government-sponsored housing programs and assistance options for low-income individuals and families, such as Section 8 vouchers or public housing. Eligibility requirements vary, so check with your local housing authority for more information.

**Roommates and Sublets:** Consider sharing housing with roommates or subletting a room or apartment from someone who already has a lease. This can be a cost-effective way to find temporary or short-term housing while you get settled in your new community.

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**Temporary Housing:** If you need temporary housing while you search for a more permanent residence, consider options such as extended stay hotels, Airbnb rentals, or short-term housing arrangements with friends or acquaintances.

**Documentation:** Make sure you have the necessary documentation and paperwork required to rent a property, such as proof of identity, proof of income or employment, and references from previous landlords if available.

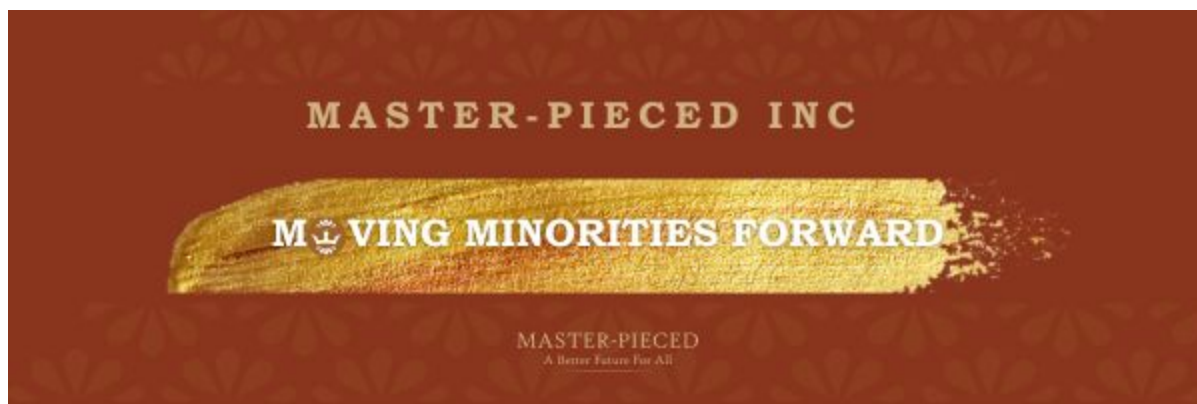
**Tenant Rights and Responsibilities:** Familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities as a tenant in the US, including lease agreements, security deposits, maintenance responsibilities, and eviction laws. Each state has its own tenant laws, so be sure to research the laws in your specific state.

Remember to be patient and persistent in your housing search, and don't hesitate to ask for help or seek guidance from local resources and support services for immigrants.

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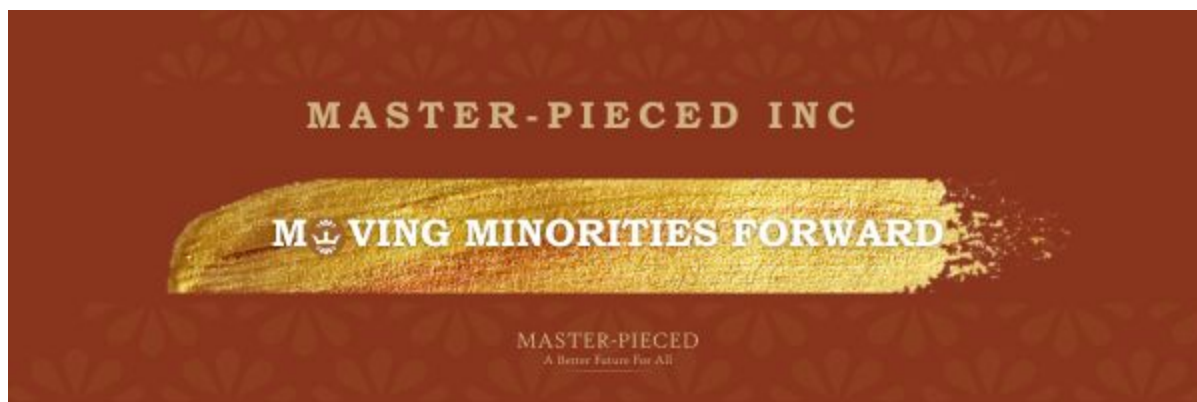
## Rent and Utilities Support in Lexington KY

- Call Lexington's **EFA (Emergency Financial Assistance) program for Residential and Utility Costs** at 859-300-5300 to receive assistance from the city. **Calls for rent and utility assistance are only accepted on Mondays.** It is better to speak with a receptionist than to leave a message. English only answering system for messages.
  - Anyone directly economically impacted by Covid-19 can apply to receive as much as 12 months of back rent and three months of future rent from the **Housing Stabilization Program** (859-280-8424), [housingstabilization@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:housingstabilization@lexingtonky.gov)). Utilities assistance is also provided. This program can be accessed directly through LFUCG's (Lexington Fayette Urban City Government's) Office of Homeless Prevention and Intervention, or through the old Covid19renterhelp.com portal. All applications can be started at [www.lexingtonky.gov/how-do-i-get-help](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/how-do-i-get-help). Applicants and their landlords also need to go through a new online portal to submit their paperwork: this is a two-part application process. For assistance completing the portal, please call Emma Anderson (859)-869-8180 (Spanish and English).
  - **Community Action Council** is open for rent assistance and KU assistance for people not impacted by Covid. For a list of locations, go to: <https://www.commaction.org/contact>. For questions (in Spanish and English), call: 859-244-2215. They prefer you apply for help through the Housing Stabilization program.
  - **Governor Beshear's Healthy at Home Emergency Relief Fund**, administered by the Kentucky Housing Corporation, is accepting applications for rent assistance. (They have a budget of \$14 million. Go to: <https://teamkyhherf.ky.gov/>. **This applies only to people in Kentucky that do not live in Fayette or Jefferson County.**
  - **Lexington Rescue Mission** has a Resource Coordinator to assist clients on needs such as housing. Call 859-381-9600 for more information (<https://lexingtonrescue.org/services/>). Outreach Center, 444 Glen Arvin Avenue. You do

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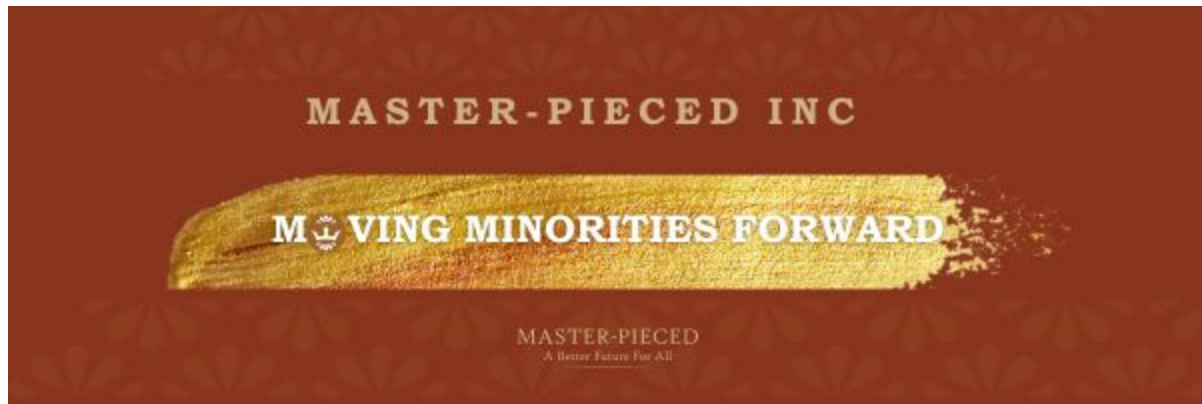
not need to make an appointment. Walk-in appointments are from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

- **Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church (MSPC)** can provide some limited financial assistance for rent and utilities. Call their client line, 859-233-0723, on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm, and leave a message. Your call will be returned during office hours. **English only is spoken here:** if you do not speak English, call CRCKY (1-800-674-9217), and they can help you connect with them. MSPC can also help with IDs and drivers' licenses, laundry cards, prescription medications, toiletries and cleaning supplies, work boots, bus passes, gasoline assistance. For more information, click on: <https://www.maxpres.org/community-assistance>
- **Nathaniel Mission** can help connect clients with resources. Call 859-255-0062 (Spanish speakers available) to make an appointment for a phone intake.
- If you have been given a shut-off date from your utility company, please call the **PSC** (Public Service Commission) at **502-564-3940**. English only.
- **Catholic Charities** is open to assist in payments to KY American Water bills. They will pay a maximum of \$150, once a year. Leave a message (859-253-3339) on their answering machine, in English or Spanish.
- **Centenary's "Love Fund"** will pay rent and utilities on a first come first serve basis. Applicants must call (859-269-2800) on the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m. Assistance is provided on a first come, first serve basis, so call early. Centenary staff only speaks English, so please make sure you have an interpreter handy if you don't speak English yourself. You will be required to provide a name and date of birth. No funds will be offered in the month of July, services will start again in August 2022.
- **The Salvation Army** is open and offers temporary housing for women, children, and families that have no place to stay. (Single men are not allowed, they need to go to the Hope Center.) The Salvation Army is located at 736 West Main Street, Lexington, KY

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40508. Please call to confirm there are beds available that day before heading over (859-252-7706).

- **The Hope Center** is open and provides men who do not have a place to stay with temporary housing. Call 859-252-7881 to see if you qualify.
- **Catholic Action Center** (859-255-0301) offers temporary housing to those who do not have a place to live. There are **no openings unless a resident leaves** and they are careful not to exceed capacity.
- **Arbor Youth Services** (859-254-2501, <https://arborky.org/services/>) is the only emergency shelter for unaccompanied children in Central Kentucky. Their emergency shelter serves children from birth through the age of 17 who are homeless, have been removed from their homes, have runaway, or are otherwise in crisis. Youth may request shelter themselves or be referred. In addition to providing a safe place to sleep, Arbor Youth provides basic necessities such as food and clothing, as well as enhanced services including crisis counseling, case management, transportation, and youth development activities. The shelter currently accommodates 10 children and youths in their facility. To learn more, contact their Shelter Coordinator, William, at [william@arborky.org](mailto:william@arborky.org). The shelter is located at 536 West Third Street, Lexington, KY 40508.

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