



Finding **Affordable, Supportive** **Housing in Illinois**

Understanding the Statewide Referral Network (SRN) Process

What is Supportive Housing?

Supportive Housing = Affordable Housing + Access to Support Services

With supportive housing, you can:

- ✓ Find an affordable place to live
- ✓ Live on your own or with your family
- ✓ Have helpful staff nearby if you need resources

Am I eligible for Supportive Housing?

Based on what we've talked about, we think you might be a good fit for supportive housing and the Statewide Referral Network. Here's why:

You are already working with a program that offers support services (that's us!)

AND

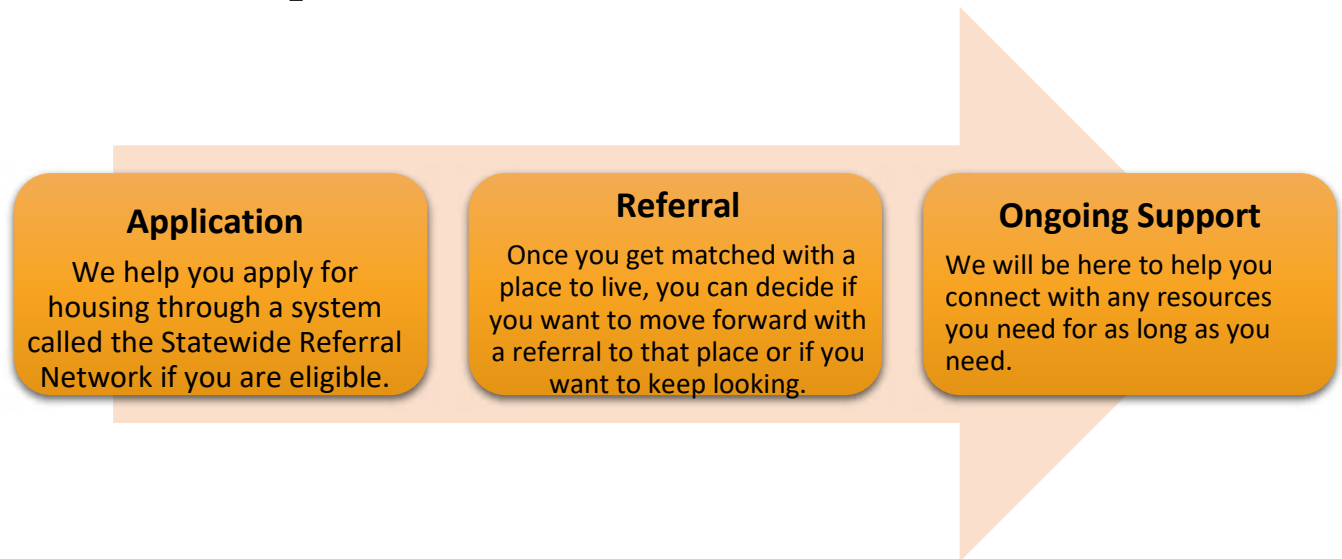
At least 1 of these criteria describes you:

- You are living in or at risk of living in a place such as a nursing home, hospital, jail etc.
- You are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- You have a disability

AND

You earn 30% or less of Area Median Income (AMI)

How does the process work?



Common Questions

Can I live anywhere in Illinois?

Yes - there are housing options all over Illinois to choose from.

How many bedrooms do these homes include?

Studios, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom homes depending on the household size.

Can I have a live-in aid?

Absolutely! You can qualify for a home with an additional bedroom if you need this for a live-in aid.

What documents will I need to apply once I am selected for housing?

Usually, property managers ask for a copy of your government ID, proof of income if you have an income, and birth certificates/Social Security cards for everyone in your household.

Can I update my application if I decide I want to make changes?

Yes – you are always welcome to update your application. Just talk to your service provider.

We are happy to answer any questions you have. You can also contact any of the SRN staff below with questions:

Jeri Bond
SRN Housing Waiting List
Manager
Illinois Dept. of Human Services
Jeri.Bond@illinois.gov

Stephanie Sideman
Senior Program Manager
Corporation for Supportive Housing
stephanie.sideman@csh.org

Ronti Ghosh
Program Manager
Corporation for Supportive Housing
ronti.ghosh@csh.org



Are you a renter with a disability?


Know Your Rights:

Housing-Related Accommodations for People with Disabilities

The Fair Housing Act says property owners must offer an **accommodation**, or change, to a home or process if a person with a disability needs that change to **access** and **use** the home. This also includes shared spaces, too (like hallways or common areas). You might ask for this change during the application process or once you already live somewhere.

What changes can a person with a disability request?

There are many changes a person can ask for if they are related to as disability. Here are just a few examples for a person named Sam.

	Sam...	So, Sam requests that...
	doesn't need meet the minimum credit score for an apartment due to his disability	the property owner changes the credit score policy to screen in a person with a disability
	needs information to be in a different format because of a visual disability	the property owner provides information in large print or electronic versions
	wants to safely use their shower in the new apartment but needs support to do so	the property owner installs a shower bar
	has a trained service animal that assists with day-to-day tasks getting around	the property owner waives the pet fee since the dog is a trained service animal, not a pet

How do I request a housing-related accommodation?

1. You can talk to the property owner or ask in writing. (It's always a good idea to keep track of who you talked to and when!)
2. Tell them the accommodation you are asking for and when you would like a response by.
3. You can explain that your request is for a related disability.

Important! You do not have to share your specific diagnosis with the property owner. BUT the property owner can ask you to show proof that your request is directly related to your disability.

For example, this proof could be a letter from Social Security verifying that you have a disability or a note from a doctor explaining that the accommodation is related to your disability.

What can I expect from the property owner?

The property owner must...



Be **clear** about the process



Let you know decisions in a **timely** way



Keep your information **private**

The property owner can consider two main things:

Is there a need? In other words, do you have a disability and need this accommodation to be able to access and use the apartment and space?

Is the request reasonable? Property owners usually cover the costs involved. They can think about these costs and if the costs would greatly impact the business. They can also offer other solutions that could address the situation.

What if I am unhappy with a decision?

If you think a property owner should have approved an accommodation, you can:

- Contact a lawyer in your community who handles housing-related issues
- Learn more about housing accommodations and the law at [Illinois Legal Aid Online's website](#).
- Contact a disability rights organization such as [Equip for Equality](#) in Illinois or an organization in your area

Your right to housing accommodations for a disability is important and the law!