



THE HOUSING CHALLENGE

Northeast Colorado nonprofit Connections for Independent Living has partnered with Colorado's Department of Housing for many years. Our organization currently manages more than 150 active Section 8 Housing Vouchers for individuals who live with disabling conditions. After several years of watching qualified housing voucher applicants unable to obtain permanent housing owing to their lack of savings to provide the required rental deposit, our board of directors created the **Housing Deposit Assistance Program** to help.

Being able to live in one's own home is an important part of self-reliance and builds stronger communities and a growing economy. Having a home is the first step to building independent lives that contribute to Colorado's society.

HOW WE EVALUATE HOUSING APPLICANTS FOR ASSISTANCE

When reviewing applicants for housing deposit assistance, the Connections evaluator ranks everyone on a score of 1 to 5 to determine an overall funding score.

Priority is given to applicants who meet the following requirements:

- Has received a Section 8 Housing Voucher from the Colorado Department of Housing.
- Is an active Connections for Independent Living consumer who has completed an intake or pre-intake with an Independent Living Specialist.
- Completed a Connections Housing Deposit Assistance Fund application.
- Priority is given to applicants who demonstrate a capacity for need, as well as demonstrating how the deposit requirement is creating an obstacle to their obtaining permanent housing.
- Priority is given to the number of people who will be served by the housing deposit.

Founded in 1986, Connections challenges barriers, both physical and attitudinal, which restrict the rights and personal development opportunities of people with disabilities. Our mission is to promote the full inclusion and integration of people who live with all types of disabilities into all levels of society.

- Priority is given to applicants who demonstrate that they have sought other areas of resource, including but not limited to their own funding contributions to complete total funds needed for said deposit.
- Priority will be given to applicants who will have dire effects, including but not limited to homelessness if they do not receive funding assistance.

Applicants who receive a passing score of 60% (a collective averaged score that is higher than 12 points) are awarded assistance, based on available funding.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Connections provides grant funding directly to apartment and housing owners on behalf of our Section 8 Housing Voucher recipients. These grants generally range from \$200.00 - \$500.00 for applicants who meet eligibility requirements. Each applicant also funds a portion of their housing rental deposit.

Your generous donation will help provide funding for this important assistance program. No amount is too small or too large, but donations of at least \$1,000.00 are extremely helpful, as this amount can assist from two to five persons with their housing rental deposits.



CONNECTIONS
Challenge Barriers. Build Independence.