



Bellevue Planning Commission

February 28, 2024

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

City of Bellevue Affordable Housing Resources

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

The purpose of this memo is to provide a list of resources and helpful information to the Planning Commission about the process for finding, and applying to, income-restricted units in the City of Bellevue.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION

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DIRECTION

☐

INFORMATION ONLY

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No direction is needed from the Commission at this time. This item is being submitted in response to a request for information during the Planning Commission meeting held on January 10, 2024.

BACKGROUND

During the Planning Commission meeting held on January 10, 2024, members of the Commission inquired about the process for finding affordable housing (income-restricted housing) in the City of Bellevue. Staff from the Community Development Affordable Housing Team compiled a non-exhaustive list of housing search resources and housing-related service providers in the city. Generally, the City of Bellevue housing resources page provides an overview of the application process for affordable units and other helpful information: [Affordable Housing Resources | City of Bellevue \(bellevuewa.gov\)](https://bellevuewa.gov/affordable-housing-resources). Some of this information has also been included for reference below:

Helpful Housing Search Links:

1. A Regional Coalition of Housing (ARCH), Apartment List: [Affordable Housing Apartment List | ARCH \(archhousing.org\)](https://archhousing.org/affordable-housing-apartment-list)
 - a. ARCH maintains a list of income-restricted housing in East King County, including properties that are part of the ARCH Rental Program, federally assisted housing and other types of affordable housing. While ARCH does not track vacancies or maintain a waiting list, all of the units located in the City of Bellevue are listed here at the top of ARCH's list: [ARCH Rental Apartment List/Directory \(Updated Jan. 2024\)](https://archhousing.org/rental-apartment-list-directory). The list is broken down by Name, Income level or "AMI" served, Unit type, and Contact information for each building.

2. The King County Housing Authority (KCHA) also manages a host of properties across the County. KCHA's list of properties can be found at this link: [KCHA Housing Search](#)
3. Additional Housing Search links:
 - a. [Apartment Finder](#)
 - b. [Bellevue, WA Rentals | AffordableHousing.com](#)¹

How to apply for affordable housing in the City of Bellevue:

Once a tenant has identified where they would like to live, the next step will be to qualify. Most buildings with affordable housing will begin advertising upcoming availability to generate leasing interest about a year before homes are ready to be leased. Interested applicants will typically be invited to informational sessions and community engagement meetings. Some properties will also often invite interested applicants to meet with property management staff individually. Once the tenant is ready to apply, a general application process can include:

- Background/Pre-screening: This usually involves an initial fee of \$25-\$50 per adult in the household.
- Application & Approval: Once a tenant's background screening is approved, they will likely need to pay a holding fee or partial security deposit and continue with the application/verification process. It is at this point where the tenant will also begin to submit their qualifying documents.

For additional details about the application process, ARCH provides a "[Renter Guide](#)" for residents interested in applying to an ARCH-funded unit. While this guide was prepared for residents interested in a unit via [ARCH's Rental Program](#), the document provides a helpful overview of what a typical application process could like.

Organizations Providing Housing-Related Support & Financial Assistance: The organizations listed below provide shelter, housing navigation services, and limited financial assistance to residents in need.

[4 Tomorrow](#)
[Attain Housing](#)
[Bellevue LifeSpring](#)
[Catholic Community Services](#)
[Coalition for the Homeless \(Housing Navigation\)](#)

[Hopelink \(Housing Navigation\)](#)
[LifeWire](#)
[Mary's Place](#)
[Solid Ground](#)
[Indian American Community Services \(IACS\)](#)
[YMCA](#)

ATTACHMENT

- A. None

¹ The City of Bellevue Affordable Housing Resources webpage is in the process of being updated. While it currently lists "SocialServe" as an alternative housing search database, SocialServe and GoSection8 have recently rebranded/updated as www.affordablehousing.com.