HOUSING RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA



Able SC is a Center for Independent Living (CIL), an organization not about "helping" people with disabilities, but built on the central concept of self-empowerment. It's a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross disability nonprofit that provides an array of independent living services.

We do everything it takes to empower people with disabilities to live active, self-determined lives: advocacy, service, and support. More than half of our staff are persons with disabilities, as are over half of our Board of Directors. We didn't just learn this; we live it.

136 Stonemark Lane, Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210 Phone: (800) 681-6805 TTY: (803) 779-0949 330 Pelham Road, Suite 100-A Greenville, SC 29615 Phone: (800) 681-7715 TTY: (864) 235-8798

Table of Contents

Contents

Introduction	3
How Do I Find Available Housing?	4
Local Housing Authorities	4
How Do I Make Sure My Home Fits My Needs?	8
Renting, Buying, and Moving	8
Renting	8
Buying	8
Moving	9
Programs to Help You Buy a Home	9
Home Inspection	10
Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications	10
State and Federal Housing Laws	11
Commonly Asked Questions and Answers	12
Resources for State and Federal Housing Laws	12
Credit Discrimination in Housing	13
Service Animals	13
Self- Advocacy and Communicating Your Housing Needs	14
Things to Know About Your New Home	14
Home Insurance	14
Renters Insurance	15
Home Maintenance	15
Safety	15
Emergency Assistance	16
Statewide	16
Upstate	16
Midlands	16

Introduction

It's easy to get overwhelmed when trying to find the information you need about housing. The goal of this packet is to compile some of the key information and resources in one place to help you find the answers you are seeking, understand your housing rights as an individual with a disability, and connect to resources that will assist you.

In this packet, you will find information to assist you in:

- Finding housing.
- Learning about housing programs and resources.
- Understanding your legal rights pertaining to housing.
- Knowing how to request reasonable modifications and reasonable accommodations.
- Communicating with a housing provider.
- Discovering how and where to find further assistance.

If you have questions, or need help, please contact:

Able South Carolina 136 Stonemark Lane, Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210 Toll Free: 800.681.6805

TTY: 803.779.0949

Able South Carolina 330 Pelham Road, Suite 100A Greenville, SC 29615 Toll Free: 800.681.7715

TTY: 864.235.8798

Visit us online at www.able-sc.org.

How Do I Find Available Housing?

Before you begin your search, you need to weigh out your options, look at the many housing possibilities in person, and ask people who live there about the area. When you weigh out your options, you need to consider:

- Do you want to rent or own?
- What type of housing do you prefer (house, apartment, townhouse, etc.)?
- Do you have or want to have pets?
- Do you want to live in the city or a more rural area?
- Will you use public transportation or your own vehicle?
- Will you be living alone, with a roommate, or with a significant other?

You have many different options for finding the right type of housing that is best for you. Some methods for deciding what type of housing will best fit your needs include:

- Online housing sites
 - o SC Housing Search
 - o <u>Homefinder.com</u>
 - o Trulia.com
 - o Zillow.com
 - o SC Department of Housing & Urban Development
 - o Apartment Finder
- Housing magazines
- Realtors
- Friends & family
- Former, compatible roommates

Tips for helping seniors to find active independent living communities and retirement communities

Seniors E-Guide

LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Please use the following chart to find your local housing authority

City or County	Physical Address	Phone Fax	Email Address Website
Abbeville	508 Haigler Street Abbeville SC 29620	(864)366-4549 (864)366-4341	None
Aiken	100 Rogers Terrace Aiken SC 29801	(803)649-6673 (803)643-0069	Aiken Housing Authority
Anderson	1335 E River Street Anderson SC 29624	(864)260-5120 (864)260-5118	Anderson Housing Authority

City or County	Physical Address	Phone Fax	Email Address Website
Atlantic Beach	1020 30th Avenue S North Myrtle Beach SC 29582	(843)272-4189 (843)361-0338	ha-atlanticbch-1020@sc.rr.com Myrtle Beach Housing Authority
Beaufort	1009 Prince Street Beaufort SC 29902	(843)525-7059 (843)525-7090	beaufortha@charter.net Beaufort Housing Authority
Bennettsville	253 Fletcher Street Bennettsville SC 29512	(843)479-3857 (843)479-2311	None
Charleston	550 Meeting St Charleston SC 29403	(843)720-3970 (843)720-3977	info@chacity.org City of Charleston Housing Authority
Charleston County	2106 Mt. Pleasant St, Suite 100 Charleston SC 29403	(843)722-1942 (843)577-6825	Charleston County Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Cheraw	1345 Dizzy Gillespie Drive Cheraw SC 29520	(843)669-4163 (843)679-2626	Housing Authority of Florence
Chester	2678 Dawson Dr, Building 100 Chester SC 29706	(803)581-6981 (803)581-2541	chesterha@truvista.net City of Chester Housing Authority
Columbia and Cayce	1917 Harden Street Columbia SC 29204	(803)254-3886 (803)376-6114	cha@chasc.org Columbia Housing Authority
Conway	2303 Leonard Avenue Conway SC 29527	(843)248-7327 (843)248-6234	hac@sc.rr.com Conway Housing Authority
Darlington	324 Bacote Street Darlington SC 29532	(843)393-0436 (843)393-0443	darl_had@bellsouth.net
Easley	101 Wallace Drive Easley SC 29640	(864)855-0629 (864)855-0864	haeasley@bellsouth.net Easley Housing Authority
Florence	400 E Pine Street Florence SC 29506	(843)669-4163 (843)679-2626	Housing Authority of Florence
Fort Mill	105 Bozeman Drive Fort Mill SC 29715	(803)547-6787 (803)548-2125	Housing Authority of Fort Mill
Gaffney	125 Beltline Road Gaffney SC 29341	(864)489-3193 (864)487-9460	gafha@bellsouth.net Gaffney Housing Authority

City or County	Physical Address	Phone Fax	Email Address Website
Georgetown	1 Lincoln Street Georgetown SC 29440	(843)546-9621 (843)527-7536	ghasc@sc.rr.com Georgetown Housing Authority
Greenville	122 Edinburgh Court Greenville SC 29607	(864)467-4250 (864)467-3088	info@tgha.net Greenville Housing Authority
Greenwood	315 Foundry Road Greenwood SC 29646	(864)227-3670 (864)227-8270	None
Greer	103 School Street Greer SC 29651	(864)877-5471 (864)848-1331	ghahud1@bellsouth.net Greenville Housing Authority
Hartsville	1301 S 5th Street Hartsville SC 29550	(843)332-9244 (843)383-9250	None
Kingstree Williamsburg County	1022 Lexington Ave Kingstree SC 29556	(843) 355-7516 (843) 355-7517	ktha@ftc-i.net
Lake City	398 N Matthews Road Lake City SC 29560	(843)374-3541 (843)374-3542	lakecityha@ftc-i.net Lake City Housing Authority
Lancaster HA	3502 Caroline Court Lancaster SC 29720	(803)285-7214 (803)283-2049	None
Laurens	218 Independence Ave Laurens SC 29360	(864)984-0578 (864)984-0931	SC Regional Housing Authority #1
Marion	826 Walnut Street Marion SC 29571	(843)423-5242 (843)423-7256	None
Marlboro County Serves Dillon County	100 Woods Avenue Clio SC 29525	(843)669-4163 (843)679-2626	None
McColl	200 Gilchrist Avenue McColl SC 29570	(843)523-5449 (843)679-2626	Housing Authority of Florence
Mullins	244 Blanton Court Mullins SC 29574	(843)464-9822 (843)464-4371	None
Myrtle Beach	605 10th Avenue N Myrtle Beach SC 29577	(843)918-1525 (843)918-1538	mbha@mbhaonline.org Myrtle Beach Housing Authority
Newberry	3589 Grant Avenue Newberry SC 29108	(803)276-1049 (803)276-1056	None

City or County	Physical Address	Phone Fax	Email Address Website
North Charleston	2170 Ashley Phosphate Rd, Suite 700 North Charleston SC 29406	(843)747-1793 (843)744-3466	ncha@nchas housingauthority.com <u>North Charleston Housing</u> <u>Authority</u>
Rock Hill	467 South Wilson Street Rock Hill SC 29730	(803)324-3060 (803)324-5857	Rock Hill Housing Authority
SC Region 1 Counties: Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Edgefield, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda	460 Church Street Laurens SC 29360	(864)984-0578 (864)984-2669	SC Regional Housing Authority #1
SC Region 3 Counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Berkeley, Calhoun, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg	10938 Ellenton Street Barnwell SC 29812	(803)259-3588 (803)259-4628	info@scrha3.com SC Regional Housing Authority #3
SC State HA HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program in: Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lee, and Lexington Counties	300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard Columbia SC 29210	(803)896-8888 (803)896-9012	Section8@SCHousing.com South Carolina State Housing Finance & Development Authority
Spartanburg	2271 South Pine Street Spartanburg SC 29302	(864)598-6000 (864)598-6155	Spartanburg Housing Authority
Sumter	15 Caldwell Street Sumter SC 29150	(803)775-4357 (803)778-2315	None
Union	201 Porter Street Union SC 29379	(864)427-9679 (864)429-0731	Union Housing Authority
Woodruff	110 Miller Drive Woodruff SC 29388	(864)476-7043 (864)476-8969	None
York	221 California Street York SC 29745	(803)684-7359 (803)684-0895	York Housing Authority

How Do I Make Sure My Home Fits My Needs? Renting, Buying, and Moving

It is important to make sure your home fits your needs and one of the best ways to do this is by visiting the house ahead of time.

When you visit a housing provider and unit, it is important to look at the actual house, room, or apartment; read the lease or rental agreement; and understand the landlord's rules or homeowners' association information. In meeting with the landlord or agent, it is vital to do a thorough inspection, ask questions if you don't understand; get more information from other sources, such as tenants, community residents, and local law enforcement; and obtain renter's or homeowner's insurance if possible.

Before you sign any housing documents, make sure you know the security deposit policy, let the landlord know when you need things fixed, document conditions or repairs needed, and request accommodations/modifications. If you own your home, it is your responsibility to have it repaired. Save your warranties for appliances you purchase.

RENTING

The following resources can serve as a guide to asking the right questions and finding all the information you need:

Apartment Hunting Checklist

Overview of Affordable Rent Programs

Includes Housing Choice Vouchers (section 8) and Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)

Fact Sheet on How Rent is Calculated for HUD Programs

HUD Housing Counseling

HUD provides free or low cost advice on renting or credit issues.

SC Housing Search

Provides information on renting and searching for an apartment or home in South Carolina.

BUYING

Finding affordable, safe housing may seem like a difficult task, but utilizing different resources allows you to see what will work best for your situation. Here are some examples of information that can assist individuals with disabilities in the housing process. Even though a location may state they are accessible, an individual with a disability should check out the resources and the place itself to determine if it is what he or she wants and needs.

Home Buying Resource Guide for Individuals with Disabilities

The Individualized Housing Options (IHO) guide will help a person with a disability to discover housing options, plan a move, and learn about help and supports to develop a person-centered housing plan.

Individualized Housing Guide

A guide to connect you to programs, services, government agencies, and organizations that provide rental and home buying assistance as well as other financial help.

MOVING

Moving is a hectic time, so use these checklists to simplify the process and help you search for an apartment.

Moving Checklist

First Apartment Checklist

Programs to Help You Buy a Home

The process of buying a home can seem overwhelming at times, however, there are programs available to assist individuals with disabilities in purchasing a home. These resources can help you learn more about buying a home and the financial assistance programs available to do so:

Overview of Affordable Housing Finance Programs

This document gives details about many housing programs including the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), HOME Investment Partnership Program, HUD Section 811, and Housing Trust Funds.

Overview of Federal Housing Assistance Programs

SC and Local Resources

A list of housing resources from HUD in South Carolina

Section 502 Direct Loan Program for Low-Income Home Buyers in Rural Areas

- USDA Homeownership Direct Loan Program
- USDA Guaranteed Rural Housing Loans

Section 504 Rural Repair and Rehabilitation Program

Reverse Mortgage for Seniors

VA Specially Adapted Housing Program

Fair Lending: Learn the Facts

As in every situation, it is important to know how to protect yourself when applying for a loan. The following resource gives an overview of fair lending practices, as well as how to avoid and report lending discrimination.

Home Inspection

When purchasing a home, it is very important to have a home inspection done to catch problems you might not have known were there otherwise. Most buyers get a professional inspection done after they are already in contract to buy the property, but you could ask the seller to let you do a "pre-inspection" before submitting your offer. Because there is no contract, the seller may sell the house to another buyer while you are waiting for results or you could pay for the pre-inspection, make an offer, and the seller could refuse. An inspection could cost anywhere from \$200-\$500 and you may not even end up owning the house. In some cases, the seller has already completed an inspection, making your inspection unnecessary.

You could also conduct <u>your own informal inspection</u> before making an offer; look for issues like sloping floors, water damage, missing roof shingles or gutters coming loose, old or low-quality fixtures or appliances, and other signs of needed repair.

Here are some resources to help you complete your own home inspection checklist:

Do-it Yourself Home Inspection Checklists

- Total Home Inspection Checklist
- Home Inspection Checklist

Once an offer on a property is accepted, most buyers hire a professional home inspector to assess the condition of the home; the inspector will write a detailed report for the buyer to use in deciding whether to continue with buying the home. For help finding a home inspector, ask friends for recommendations or check with the <u>American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI)</u>. Even though you will receive a written report, you should still be present at the inspection to ensure the home inspector looks at everything and answers any questions you may have. Some homeowner's insurance companies will also require a home inspection when you first apply for an insurance policy.

Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

If you are a person with a disability, you can request reasonable modifications or accommodations to your housing unit if they are necessary to your use of the premises. In order for a requested modification or accommodation to be considered reasonable;

- 1) There must be a relationship between the requested accommodation and an individual's disability.
- 2) The request must not impose an undue financial burden on the housing provider.

The following are examples of reasonable modifications taken from www.hud.gov:

- a) If the bathroom in a unit is inaccessible, an individual with a disability can request grab bars be installed in the shower/tub area or around the toilet.
- b) If a housing complex is inaccessible, a tenant who uses a wheelchair or other mobility device can request an accessible doorway to the laundry facilities or leasing office.
- c) If a housing unit does not have accessible fire alarms for people with hearing disabilities, a tenant can request a flashing light fire alarm.

The following are examples of reasonable accommodations taken from www.hud.gov:

- a) If a housing provider offers limited parking, and has no accessible parking, a tenant with a disability can request an accessible parking space.
- b) If a housing provider requires rent to be dropped off at an inaccessible location, a tenant with a disability can request the payment be mailed to the leasing agent, rather than hand delivered.
- c) If a housing provider has a policy against pets in their apartment complex, a person with a disability who has a service animal can request an accommodation to make an exception to the policy to allow the service animal.

In response to a request for reasonable accommodation, a housing provider may request information necessary to verify that your disability meets the Fair Housing Act's definition of a disability; this can be proof of SSI or SSDI; a credible statement from you; or a doctor, medical professional, or reliable third party's verification.¹

The following resources can serve as a guide for reasonable accommodation and modifications:

Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act

A question and answer fact sheet about reasonable accommodations and modifications from HUD.

Guides for Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications

Booklets with information on reasonable accommodations and modifications for housing with sample letters for individuals with disabilities to make requests.

- Understanding Your Rights: Reasonable Accommodations
- Guide for Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications Booklet
- Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications Self-Help Packet

State and Federal Housing Laws

There are state and federal laws that govern the housing process. The South Carolina **Residential Landlord-Tenant Act** is a law passed in 1986 that protects South Carolina house, apartment, and room renters and their landlords. If you live in government-assisted housing, this law also protects you². You may also have additional protections under federal law; the federal **Fair Housing Act** amended in 1988 prohibits discrimination in housing-related transactions because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status. The Fair Housing Act applies to a wide variety of housing transactions, including rentals, sales, home mortgages, appraisals, and homeowner's insurance. Landlords, real estate agents, lenders, insurance companies, and condominium, cooperative, and homeowners' associations must not discriminate because of one's membership in a protected class.³ Many state and local laws also prohibit housing discrimination based on several additional protected classes.

1

¹ Reasonable Accommodations Under the Fair Housing Act

² <u>Landlord & Tenant Law in SC</u>

³ HUD.gov

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS4

What is the definition of a disability?

A disability is a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. It also includes having a record of such an impairment or regarding someone as having such an impairment when they do not.

May housing providers refuse to rent to me because they believe I will not be safe or cannot take care of myself?

No. The only exception, which applies to all applicants, is if an individual's tenancy poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others and a reasonable accommodation cannot significantly reduce or eliminate the threat.

What is a reasonable accommodation?

Housing providers must permit reasonable modifications requested by residents; a reasonable modification is a structural change made to existing premises occupied or to be occupied by a person with a disability, so that he or she can fully use and enjoy the premises. Reasonable modifications can include structural changes to interiors and exteriors of dwellings, and to the common and public use areas. The resident pays the cost of the modification. Examples of reasonable modifications include installing grab bars or ramps, lowering counter spaces, and allowing a deaf or hard of hearing tenant to install strobes. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may require landlords who receive federal funds to pay for reasonable modifications.

A request for a reasonable accommodation may be denied if providing the accommodation would impose an undue financial and administrative burden on the housing provider or would fundamentally alter the nature of the provider's operations, determined on a case-by-case basis. When a housing provider refuses a requested accommodation because it is not reasonable, the provider should discuss with the requester whether there is an alternative accommodation that would effectively address the requester's disability-related needs.

May the housing provider ask for details or proof that I have a disability?

The housing provider may ask for verification of a person's disability, if it is not obvious or otherwise known to the housing provider, and may verify that a request is related to that disability. If requested, the individual may provide a written statement from a licensed medical or social service professional or other third party stating that the applicant/resident qualifies as an individual with a disability. The housing provider may not ask the person with a disability or the certifying professional about the nature of the individual's disability.

RESOURCES FOR STATE AND FEDERAL HOUSING LAWS

Advocates Guide to the Fair Housing Act

A guide created by the South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center. It is intended to give a brief overview of the federal Fair Housing Act and the South Carolina Fair Housing law.

⁴ Information taken from Disability Rights in Housing

Appleseed Legal Justice Housing Publications and Links

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center advocates statewide for legislation and policies that ensure adequate and affordable housing for all South Carolinians, and they created this resource guide to help individuals with the housing process.

SC HUD Tenant Rights

Information that includes questions about landlords, tenants, and leases.

Understanding the Fair Housing Amendments Act-United Spinal Association

Understanding the Fair Housing Amendments Act is a guide to help both people with disabilities and advocates better understand the FHAA. This brochure outlines the law and how to make the law work for people with disabilities.

How to File a Housing Discrimination Complaint Online

If you have been trying to buy or rent a home or apartment and you believe your civil rights have been violated, you can file your fair housing complaint online at the link below. Your housing discrimination complaint will be reviewed by a fair housing specialist to determine if it alleges acts that might violate the Fair Housing Act.

Reasonable Accommodations under the Fair Housing Act

Understand your rights to reasonable accommodations if you have a disability by reading the HUD information below.

CREDIT DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

Credit is a key component for buying a house, and it is important to know when you are being denied access to fair credit. The following link is a guide to credit discrimination that will give you information about the kinds of discrimination common for individuals with disabilities and sections of the law that can protect you.

Guide to Credit Discrimination

SERVICE ANIMALS

People with disabilities may use service animals for a multitude of reasons and tasks. Federal and state civil rights laws govern your use of service animals in housing entities. Be sure to check state and federal laws to see what your rights are when using a service animal.

Service Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-Funded Programs

A guide to understanding service animals with regards to housing and HUD programs.

Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals Booklet

An overview of where they are allowed and under what circumstances.

Department of Justice Overview of Service Animals

An explanation of service animals and rights of access under the ADA.

Assistance Dogs International's Guide to Assistance Dog Laws

This booklet is designed to provide information about the rights of people with disabilities who use Assistance Dogs.

Assistance Animal Fair Housing Toolkit

This toolkit focuses on the federal laws that prohibit discriminatory treatment of those who use assistance animals in public accommodations and housing.

Self- Advocacy and Communicating Your Housing Needs

Throughout the entire buying or renting process you will need to communicate your needs clearly and effectively; the following section gives an overview of self-advocacy.

There are several ways you can communicate your housing needs to a landlord or housing provider. First, you can meet with them directly and discuss your needs. Second, you can send a letter or e-mail expressing your needs. Third, you can contact them over the telephone. It is usually best to meet with the housing provider in person so you can give them your letter of reasonable accommodation or modification, and can then set a follow-up time to meet.

Here are some tips to help you more effectively communicate what you want:

- Speak to the landlord or property manager in a respectful and timely manner.
- When questions arise, speak to them directly. Document these conversations for your records.
- Be aware of the dates rent and monthly mortgages are due
- Be honest if something breaks or a policy was violated.
- Taking notes at a meeting can help build teamwork and keep everyone focused

Use the following resources to improve your self-advocacy skills:

Advocacy Tool Kit: Skills and Strategies for Effective Self and Peer Advocacy

The toolkit teaches people with disabilities and others who are advocating for them, the skills and strategies necessary to be an effective advocate.

Things to Know About Your New Home

HOME INSURANCE

Home insurance is protection for the physical structure of your home and possessions in it. Although not all states require homeowner's insurance, your mortgage lender typically will require coverage in order to provide a home loan. With homeowner's insurance, you can get the compensation needed to repair or rebuild after a loss and receive financial protection in the event of a liability claim that leads to a lawsuit. Read more below to understand your insurance needs.

Things you will need to know

 Determine how much coverage you need. Buy enough coverage to replace your home if it's destroyed. Talk to your insurance agent to determine how much coverage you need. You can

- use this <u>SC Home Insurance Price Comparison tool</u> to help determine potential costs of coverage. Use this Homeowners Insurance Shopping guide for help.
- Know <u>your credit score</u>. Companies may consider your credit score when deciding whether to sell you insurance and at what price. They cannot deny coverage or refuse to renew a policy solely because of your credit score, however.
- Gather information about the house. You'll need to know the square footage, the number of bathrooms, the materials used for the roof and exterior walls, the age and condition of the house, and the condition of decks, patios, garages, etc. These are items that help determine how much you'll pay for coverage.
- Find out if the house is in a designated flood plain. Visit <u>the National Flood Insurance Program's</u> website
- Have your home inspection ready for your insurance agent
- Get a CLUE report. Most insurance companies use the Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange (CLUE). CLUE lists the property insurance claims history of individuals and houses – regardless of ownership. Ask the home's current owner for a copy of the CLUE report for the house. Some companies may deny coverage or charge more if a home has had certain types of damage, such as water damage, in the past.
- Use a <u>Home Inventory Checklist</u> to keep track of personal items that may need to be replaced.

RENTERS INSURANCE

If you rent a house or apartment, your landlord's insurance will not financially protect yourself or your belongings. Renters insurance includes three key types of financial protection: coverage for personal possessions, liability protection, and additional living expenses. When buying renters insurance, make sure you have enough to replace all of your personal possessions; you can determine the value of these by creating a home inventory.

HOME MAINTENANCE

Owning and organizing a home is a big responsibility, but the right maintenance leads to relaxed, healthy, easy living. Navigate your home's upkeep with this home maintenance checklist.

Ongoing Maintenance Planner

Septic Tank Maintenance Information

Energy-Saving for Homeowners

SAFETY

All individuals want to feel safe in their home. Each of us needs to make sure that we do the proper things that will keep us safe and protected. Here is a checklist to fill out to ensure you are being safe in your home.

Home Safety Checklist

Emergency Assistance

There are charities, nonprofit organizations, and other groups that individuals can reach out to and get assistance from, when needed. Call or visit these locations to learn how to apply for emergency assistance and other aid, such as rent help, grants for utility bills, and more.

STATEWIDE

DSS Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Information

The primary focus of the program is to assist low income families in meeting basic needs by providing cash assistance, supportive services and training, and employment opportunities. TANF is designed to serve both single-parent and two-parent families, as well as households with disabled adults. In many instances, these families would be eligible for SNAP benefits and Medicaid.

Emergency Rental Assistance

Emergency Utility Assistance

South Carolina Office of Economic Opportunity Emergency Assistance Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides funding for local community initiatives, including assistance for program-eligible households in areas such as education, employment, emergencies, housing, nutrition and health care. Community programs are intended to encourage families toward self-sufficiency. To learn more about, contact your <u>local Community Action Agency</u>.

The SC Directory of Services for Women, Children, and Families

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides Direct Assistance for Heating and Cooling; Emergency Crisis Assistance Program (ECAP) for Heating and Cooling; and Supplemental Funding for the Low-Income Weatherization Program (WAP). LIHEAP is a federal emergency assistance block grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

UPSTATE

United Housing Connections-Upstate

United Housing Connections is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. UHC is an organization that works together with other agencies in the Upstate area to provide affordable housing.

ADRC Upstate Emergency Assistance by County

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is a collaborative pilot project designed to improve awareness of and access to long-term supports for seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers.

MIDLANDS

USC Emergency Assistance Programs

Programs to assist individuals in emergency situations.