

Possible questions or topics asked during housing interviews (NYCHA, HUD and Tax Credit Housing):

- Who will live in the apartment?
- What is the income for all household members?
- What are the bank assets for all household members?
- Do you have a Section 8 Voucher or other housing subsidy?
- What is the citizenship status for all household members (Determines eligibility for subsidy in NYCHA and HUD).
- Does anyone in the household require a cane, walker, or wheelchair?
- For preferences in tax credit housing, 5% for mobility impaired and 2% for visually impaired and for hearing impaired. For specially designed units called "504 units also called "retrofitted units" in NYCHA and HUD buildings for persons who are mobility impaired. These following questions may be asked:
 - Is anyone in the household visually impaired?
 - Is anyone in the household hearing impaired?
- For tax credit housing full time students do not qualify for tenancy. Part time students do. This is determined by number of credits. The head of house may work and they may have a son or daughter who is a full time student.
 - Is the head of household or Co-Head a full time student?
 - Is any other adult in the household a full time student?
- If you have not been at your present address for at least 5 years or do not pay rent at your present address, they may ask this of your last few addresses:
 - Where do you live now?
 - How much do you pay for rent?
 - To whom do you pay rent?
- Criminal Justice history
 - NYCHA and HUD will do a criminal background check.
 - You may be required to provide additional information about parole or a certificate of good conduct depending upon your specific situation.
 - A few severe circumstances result in a lifetime ban.
- Home Visit
 - NYCHA and HUD do a home visit to see how you maintain your present apartment.
 - If it is very cluttered or dirty, consider cleaning or organizing it prior to your visit.
- Credit Check
 - Housing programs including NYCHA, HUD, and tax credit housing do credit checks to see your credit rating.
 - If this is likely to be a problem, you may want to work on trying to improve/repair your credit.
 - See a CIDNY counselor for referrals to credit repair agencies.

- If you live in NYCHA or HUD housing, and you are elderly or disabled, do you pay for disability related work expenses that enable you to work?
 - If so, provide this information and receipts.
 - If you don't have receipts, get a letter from your health care provider which lists the items you need and their cost. Most buildings will accept this.
- If you live in NYCHA or HUD housing, and you are elderly or disabled, do you have anticipated medical expenses that you will pay that will not be reimbursed by health insurance for the next 12 months?
 - If so, please list and include receipts.
 - If you don't have receipts, people have gotten a letter from their provider(s) listing their expense such as dental care and the anticipated cost. Some housing will also look at last year's costs to estimate this year's anticipated costs.
- Do you have a pet? What kind? Is it licensed?
- If you've indicated that any family members have a disability, you may be asked if anyone will need any accommodations to the apartment (such as grab bars, a flashing door bell, etc). and be told how to request them.

Housing Interview Tips

- Call ahead to confirm your meeting time and place
- Compile all required documentation or information the landlord requested
- Wear clothing that is comfortable, clean and conservative
- Always be on time - if you are meeting with a landlord or a broker
- If you are going to be late, call to let the landlord know
- Act like every conversation you have with the landlord is an interview
- Answer questions with examples that show that you are a responsible person. For example, if you have children, you can use your responsibilities as a mother to demonstrate that you are a reliable person
- Have an outline of important items you want to learn about the apartment, the landlord and the neighborhood
- Bring paper and a pen along with a list of questions you want to ask the landlord and write down the answers to your questions
- Present a positive attitude
- Make eye contact

Documents needed for housing interview:

- For HPD/NYCHA/HUD/ 80/20 rentals, there is a very specific list of document to bring to the interview. Please follow that list in detail and bring every required document to the interview.
- If you do not have some items of the required list, discuss what alternatives you may be able to provide or is acceptable as substitutes.
- General documents to have prepared and available are:
 - Proof of income (for example award letter, recent pay stubs if employed)
 - Proof of residence
 - Proof identity
 - Proof of citizenship (for certain kinds of housing like NYCHA and HUD)
 - Social Security cards (for subsidized housing)
 - Be prepared to have Personal or business references