



Mainstream Housing Choice **BULLETIN**

New Avenues to Independence, Inc.



SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST

As the flowers begin to bloom, the birds serenade, our houses may still feel like they are stuck with the winter blues. Spring cleaning is a tradition that allows us to freshen up our homes. Winter can do some harmful damage to the exterior of your house, but you also need to clean the inside, too. Here are some spring cleaning tips to help you prepare your home for summer. There are things that tenants and landlords can do:

TENANTS:

- Once the snow has melted, there may be leaves and debris around your yard and flower beds. Help keep your neighborhood clean by picking up trash and disposing of it appropriately. You can also help by picking up fallen branches and sticks and place them at the curb for city pick-up.
- Tenants should clean all windows that are within their reach.

LANDLORDS:

- April showers may bring spring flowers to help brighten our day, but they may also cause wet basements. Now is the time to check the outside for clogged driveway drains and loose or missing downspouts. If a sump pump has been installed, check to make sure that it is in good working order. Wet basements lead to damaged belongings that may have stored away and may damage furnaces. They are also the leading cause of mold growth which can lead to health problems.
- Take a good look at the exterior of the unit. The building may need to be repainted to comply with HOS guidelines. Gutters may also need repair from winter damage. The freezing weather also leads to heaved steps, sidewalks and front stoops. They will need repair to prevent tripping hazards.
- Check windows and door screens to ensure that they are in proper working condition for the warmer summer months.

Spring cleaning may not be something that you look forward to doing, but it is something that is extremely important to keeping your home running properly.

Be sure to advise the Mainstream Housing Choice Office of any significant issues. Rick can be reached at (216) 481-1909 ext. 331.



ANNUAL REEXAMINATION INFORMATION

All program participants are responsible for ensuring their continuing eligibility to participate in New Avenues' Mainstream Housing program. To ensure continuing eligibility, program participants need to complete an eligibility reexamination each year. Rick Edwards, New Avenues' Mainstream Housing Coordinator, will contact you to schedule an appointment time for your reexamination. **Please make sure that you bring current IDs for all adults (16 and over).**

REMINDER for TENANTS

You are required to report **changes** in your **income** (*e.g. new job*) and **household composition** (*e.g. birth of a child*) to our Mainstream Housing Choice Office at (216) 481-1909 x331.



**REMINDER:
SMOKE DETECTORS MUST
BE OPERABLE AT ALL
TIMES**

This is to remind you that your smoke detectors must be in working order at all times. If you remove the batteries because the detector is too close to your kitchen or bathroom, please contact your landlord and see if the detector can be moved to a better location. In addition, please change the batteries in your detector twice a year, at daylight savings time in the spring and fall. While Section 8 tests your detectors annually during our HQS inspection, you can periodically test it yourself. If you have questions or concerns about your smoke detector(s), please contact Rick at (216) 481-1909 x331 for guidance.

New HUD System for Verifying Employment & Income Information

HUD created a new system called EIV (Enterprise Income Verification) that contains employment and income information of individuals who participate in HUD rental assistance programs. All Public Housing Agencies, like New Avenues, are required to use HUD's EIV system.

The purpose of EIV is to identify and prevent fraud within HUD rental assistance programs, so that limited taxpayer's dollars can assist as many eligible families as possible.

As a program participant of a HUD rental assistance program, you and each adult household member must disclose complete and accurate information to New Avenues, including full name, social security number, date of birth, income information, and certify that your reported household members, income, and expense information is true to the best of your knowledge.

Remember, you must notify New Avenues if a household member dies or moves out. You must also obtain New Avenues' approval to allow additional family members or friends to move in your home prior to them moving in.



RENTAL HOUSING LOCATOR

Finding a good place to live- one that meets your individual needs- can be especially difficult if you have a disability. The search is easier with Ohio's Rental Housing Locator, a free online database at www.OhioHousingLocator.org.

Please note: the State continues to recruit property management companies and public housing authorities to register their rental housing on the Rental Housing Locator.

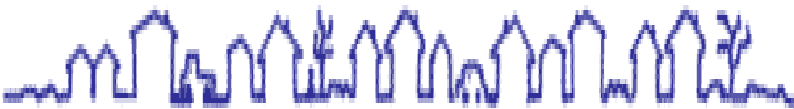
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is a publication of New Avenues to Independence, Inc., a nonprofit organization headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of New Avenues is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities and special needs to become more independent and productive members of society by offering the highest quality support services and developing innovative and inclusive programs.

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To have the Mainstream Housing Choice Bulletin sent electronically to you, please forward your email address to kknavel@newavenues.net. The subject line should read: MHC Bulletin Email List. Thank you.

Visit our website @ www.newavenues.net

