

Resources

Websites

Check out these websites to locate the best areas to look for housing based on the places you go often:

<http://www.walkscore.com/apartments>

<http://www.padmapper.com>

This website can help you figure out travel distances, times and options (like the bus or walking)

<http://www.maps.google.com>

Other Resources

<http://www.homeforward.org/find-a-home/learn-about-transportation-costs>

This web page has links to the following:

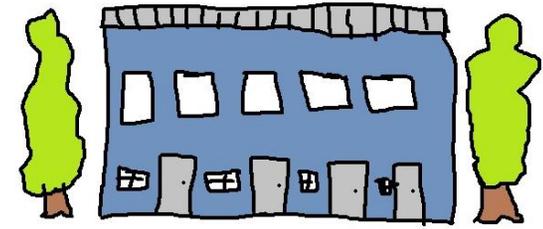
Moving: Beyond the Basics -an introductory video

Transportation + Housing Cost Comparison Worksheet

A guide for using the Walkscore website

For More Information

Contact your Rent Assistance Service Coordinator at 503-802-8333 Option 4



LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE?

Think bigger than just the home

When you choose a place to live, you're choosing more than a safe, affordable space for you and your family.

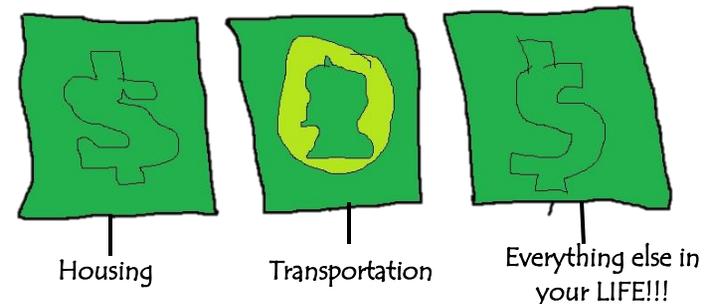
You're also choosing a neighborhood that meets your family's needs. You're choosing schools, stores, medical providers, job commutes and many other things that affect how much time and money you'll spend on transportation.

Why consider transportation now?

In our area, transportation costs about 30% of what families with housing assistance earn each month. For many, that's about as much as your housing costs.



YOUR MONEY



Transportation costs sneak up on you

Most people know how much they pay for rent because it's paid all at once. But most people don't realize how much they spend on transportation, as the costs are paid gradually. Think about it - gas, bus passes, car repairs, insurance – they all add up. And then there's the "time cost" of long commutes.

Let's take a look at an example of actual cost and time savings that can result from a smart move*.

Meet Sally and her daughter



Sally took her current job because it was close to her sister, who looks after her daughter during the day. Unfortunately, her commute was miserable – 60 miles per day – and expensive at \$250 per month. So, Sally moved closer to work. Now she can walk to work and to her sister's house, which is great because her car is starting to give her problems. And, with the money she's saving from not buying gas, she is thinking about going back to Clark College, which is right down the street.

Sally's monthly savings with this move:

\$170 per month in driving costs
12 hours in travel time

**While the family in the example is not real, the housing and transportation options and costs are based on real information.*

What can you do?

Look for an area that's affordable and provides easy access to important destinations for you.

Think of the places you often go. Then identify an area to look for housing where you could get to your regular destinations in a reasonable amount of time and at a reasonable cost. Start your search there.

Compare not just the places, but also the commutes

Let's say you've found two places to live that fit your needs. Have you figured how much time and money you'd spend on transportation at each? It might help you decide which place is really best for you.

Think about other ways to travel

Consider whether transit, biking or walking, instead of driving, is reasonable. Using these options even a little bit can save you money. Plus walking or biking can improve your health and mood!

Sure, you have challenges

- Finding housing you can afford
- Finding a decent landlord
- Having reasonable access to the places you need to go
- Maybe getting past a poor rental or credit history

But you also have choices

Transportation time and costs matter. When you spend less on transportation, you'll have more time and money to spend on what your family needs to succeed.

Consider your transportation options and costs before you make a move.