



Housing**Link**

LANDLORD TIPS: **Renting to Refugees with No Rental History**

It can often be difficult or even impossible to obtain rental histories from refugees who have only recently moved to the U.S.

Some refugees come to the U.S. seeking asylum from persecution in their native countries and have not had a stable home in years. Others *do* have a history of residency, but they've lived in countries to which American tenant screening agencies have limited or no access.

Unfortunately, many landlords shy away from this population of renters based on lack of information about their pasts. Subsequently, these landlords cut themselves off from what is fast becoming one of the largest groups of potential renters in Minnesota.

Below are a few tips for landlords who would like to tap into this rapidly increasing population of renters. While obtaining a complete and detailed rental history may not be an option, landlords can still find dependable and responsible renters among Minnesota's refugee population.

- **Talk to the social service agency working with the prospective renter.** Most refugees in Minnesota have caseworkers guiding them through their transitions in their new homes. The caseworkers have usually worked extensively with their clients and can vouch for their clients' credibility and history.
- **Find out how long the agency will be working with the prospective renter.** If the agency plans on maintaining a long-term relationship with the prospective renter, the agency can help landlords communicate and translate (if necessary) to the renter, and provide support to the renter and landlord should questions or conflicts come up.