



Housing**Link**

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

Before renting to a prospective renter, landlords generally like to see that the prospective renter has maintained a steady employment history; this is a strong indicator that the renter will be able to pay their rent in full and on time each month.

Refugees who are new to the U.S. often have little or no employment history. Though these refugees may be currently employed, they may be very new to the job and/or they may be working off the books. Determining a work history under these circumstances is difficult at best.

Below are a few tips to help landlords determine an employment history for refugees seeking housing. Though their work history may not be as complete and detailed as preferred, it can still offer insight into the financial capabilities of the prospective renter to meet his/her rent obligations.

- **Talk to the social service agency working with the prospective renter.** Most refugees in Minnesota have caseworkers guiding them through their transitions to their new homes. The caseworkers have most often worked extensively with their clients and can vouch for their clients' credibility and history.
- **Contact the prospective renter's current employer.** This can give landlords a sense of whether or not the prospective renter is indeed working, has been showing up and working reliably, and if job security is an issue. Employers can also provide a valuable character reference for the prospective renter to take the place of a more detailed and formal employment history.