Searching for Off-Campus Housing

Begin your off-campus housing search can seem overwhelming as there are so many things to consider when deciding where you are going to live. Below is a list to help you keep track of all of those important facts when searching for off-campus housing.

Begin Your Housing Search:

1. **Choose the area in which you would like to reside.**
   There are many diverse and exciting neighborhoods surrounding the Carnegie Mellon campus, including Oakland, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill, Bloomfield, Regent Square, South Side, Point Breeze and Downtown. Some of the neighborhoods are within walking distance to campus, while others you may need to take a bus or car to get to Carnegie Mellon University. Each neighborhood has something different to offer so be sure to research the areas in order to find the correct match for you.

2. **Look for available housing in that particular neighborhood.**
   In order to search for available rental properties, you may utilize Carnegie Mellon University’s free service called the Community Housing Registry. Many local landlords and apartment management companies post their vacancies to the housing registry, which is located here: [www.cmu.edu/housing/community-housing](http://www.cmu.edu/housing/community-housing). You may also want to check Craig’s List for Pittsburgh: [Pittsburgh.craigslist.org](http://Pittsburgh.craigslist.org), or the local newspapers, such as the Pittsburgh Post Gazette: [www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com) and the Pittsburgh Tribune Review: [www.pittsburghlive.com/x](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x).

3. **Type of rental property.**
   Learn about the different types of rental properties, such as apartments, efficiencies and houses. For example, maybe you want to look for a one bedroom apartment in a big complex with door security or maybe you want to search for a one bedroom in a shared house. This will help you refine your searching process.

4. **Decide what features you need.**
   You can also narrow your searching process by figuring out what features of a rental property are most important to you. Features can range from a furnished apartment, to utilities being included in the rent, to the property being pet friendly, to the building being non-smoking. Some of these could be deal breakers for you so you do not want to waste your time going to view a non-pet friendly apartment if you have a cat, for instance. Make a list that describes the features your rental property must have, the features you are flexible on, and any features you definitely do not want. This will help you find a property that best suits your needs.

5. **Consider your budget.**
   Be sure not to let the excitement of finding a new home off-campus keep you from remembering your budget. The costs for living off-campus include not only rent, but also utilities such as cable, Internet, water and heat. Then on top of those housing costs, keep in mind other finances, like grocery and entertainment costs. Use the Community Housing Services Budget Worksheet to help guide you toward what you can and cannot afford when it comes to housing.