
Has Your Criminal Record Excluded You from Public Housing?

Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing (NI ReACH) reviewed and amended its admissions policies in 2021. Here are some important things to know if you or a family member have been involved in the justice system:

- If an applicant was released from jail or prison more than two years ago, their criminal background will not be factored into the review of an application for public housing or housing choice vouchers (Section 8).
 - Although applicants may be ineligible when they submit their applications, they may fall outside of the two-year lookback period when the application reaches the top of the waiting list.
- Applicants are encouraged to:
 - present evidence of mitigating circumstances and participation in any relevant programs (such as vocational, educational, or rehabilitative programs), including those that may have taken place while incarcerated; and
 - dispute an inaccurate record, if one is recorded or cited.
- In reviewing applications, NI ReACH will give less weight to arrests and evictions than to convictions.