

March 2024



My Apartment Journey

My name is Felicia Clayborne and I want to share my journey of looking for a new place to live over the last couple of years. Finding housing, especially with support can be a long and difficult process. In May 2022, I applied to live in a new place. I was put on a waiting list but I wasn't told what number on the list I was, so I called on a regular basis and even wrote them a letter. I decided that I wanted to move because I wanted to be in a safer area and needed to have more freedom over my apartment and life. The place I was living had all of these strange rules about furniture and decorations. I was also restricted on how late I could stay out because I was living with and in-home caregiver who had so many rules.

In November of 2023 I called again to see where I was on the wait list and the property manager told me that I would get a call in January. I ended up getting a call at the end of December to schedule a day for me to view the apartment. After waiting so long I scheduled it as soon as possible. I walked through two days later, and I absolutely loved the apartment. It was everything that I wanted. It

turned out that they had some work to do on the unit so I wouldn't end up signing the lease until the end of January.

To prepare for the move and look at the support I would need, I had my social worker come in to do an in-home assessment. They ended up calling a moving service to help me move my belongings and the service was paid for through my social worker's organization! After my in-home assessment we decided that I didn't need a live-in caregiver so my supports have changed. I now will have someone coming three days a week through Family care to help support me with laundry, cooking, and cleaning. I'm so excited to be able to have the freedom to decorate my apartment how I want and to have more control over my day. While I know that I need some supports to live as independently as possible, I don't think those supports should come at the cost of my decision-making and self-determination!