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How is Columbia Park an Equal Housing Opportunity (EHO) provider?

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability or familial status or on the basis of any additional protected classes as defined by state or local Fair Housing laws.

What's checked after I apply?

For all occupants 18 years or older we run credit and criminal background checks (via a 3rd party independent service) and we verify your employment and rental history.

How does my credit score affect my application?

We submit your application to a 3rd party independent credit evaluation service. They tell us if you are approved without conditions, approved with conditions or denied. If you are approved with conditions, you will have to pay a larger security deposit.

Does a felony conviction automatically disqualify me from living here?

A felony conviction will not automatically disqualify you from living here. Federal Fair Housing guidance indicates that felony convictions must be evaluated on an individual basis, taking into consideration the nature and severity of the conviction and any other mitigating circumstances.

If I have a felony conviction what information should I submit for consideration?

We invite you to provide with your rental application information concerning the facts and circumstances of the offense, including your age at the time, your history since the offense, rehabilitation efforts, and any other information you wish to provide. All decisions regarding criminal background are at the sole discretion of management in compliance with our established policies and are made in accordance with all applicable Fair housing laws. If you have questions, please ask us.

How much is the application fee and deposit?

You pay a non-refundable application fee of \$50 for each occupant 18 or older. To hold the apartment, you pay \$300 - \$900 refundable (call for details). If your application is approved, this becomes the refundable security deposit.

What is the income requirement?

The total combined annual income for all leaseholders in an apartment must be at least 3.2 X the annual rent (example: \$1,100 monthly rent X 12 = \$13,200 annual rent X 3.2 = \$42,240 minimum annual income). There is no maximum income limit.

Do you accept Section 8 or other housing vouchers?

Yes, Prince George's county requires all apartment communities to accept housing assistant payments. We do not participate in Second Chance programs.

Do you accept co-signers?

No, but we do accept guarantors for applicant(s) who do not meet our income requirement. We don't accept guarantors if the applicant's credit doesn't meet our requirement. The guarantor must meet our income, credit & residency requirements. Call for details.

What must I bring to see an apartment?

Each person who is at least 18 years old must bring one valid, current Photo ID: driver's license, passport, state or other government-issued ID, student ID, Permanent Resident Card (green card) or military ID.

What documents must I provide when applying?

All leaseholders (everyone 18 or older) must provide a current government-issued Photo ID and a Social Security Card or ITIN number. For income verification, all leaseholders must provide one month's paystubs (most recent and consecutive) and, if needed, proof of additional income (i.e. court-ordered child support). We accept many sources of income--call for details. Self-employed may provide a copy of most recent tax return, W-2, 1099 or a profit/loss statement.

I have a new job & no pay stubs!

No problem! Provide your original job offer letter (on company letterhead) that states your name, start date & annual income. We'll then verify everything with your employer.

Are utilities included in the rent?

No, you pay for gas, electricity & water/sewer. Washington Gas and BG & E will bill you based on the actual amount of gas & electricity you use plus any taxes & fees charged by the utilities and the government. Your water/sewer bill is determined by a percentage-based formula we are required to use by Prince George's County, MD. We set up the account for you and the water billing company charges you a \$10 setup fee that appears on your first bill.

Do you accept dogs/pets?

We don't accept dogs. We allow up to 2 cats per home with no deposit or monthly pet fee! Other pets--if it always lives in a cage, bowl or tank then generally we allow two per apartment (call for details). For fish, we allow 50 gal maximum tank size.

What are the schools?

Columbia Park Elementary (K-5), G. James Gholson Middle (6-8) and Fairmont Heights High (9-12)

Do you offer short-term leases?

No, our standard lease is 12 months.

What about parking?

We are unique in our area because we have a lot of free parking for residents and their guests! Our ample surface lots have unreserved spaces, plus there is plenty of public street parking very close by. Residents and visitors parked in our lots must always display a current community issued permit (or use public street parking-local laws apply).

How many parking permits do you issue per apartment?

We issue one parking permit per leaseholder with a current driver's license and Maryland vehicle registration. The State of Maryland requires new residents to register their vehicles within 60 days of moving here.

Do you have furnished apartments?

No, but there are furniture rental companies nearby

What must be paid on move-in day?

You pay a full month's rent. If you move in anytime after the 1st day of the month, we reduce your second month's rent by the amount you pre-paid when you moved in.

What happens at lease end?

At the end of your lease you have the option to continue month-to-month or renew for 12 months. If you decide to move, we require that you notify us in writing at least 60 days in advance.