

News Release



Leading Tennessee Home

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Housing Search Site Underway TNHousingSearch.Org Seeks Properties to Post

NASHVILLE, April 14, 2008 – The need is constant, website is ready and Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) is ready to receive property listings.

THDA has developed a rental housing website to assist potential renters find housing and for property owners/managers to list housing, all for free. Finding a place to live is not as easy as driving up and down the streets in your choice of neighborhood. Using TNHousingSearch.org can save gas, time and provide a lot of information from the comfort of home.

THDA secured the services of socialserve.com to develop TNHousingSearch.org. To date, 23 other states and numerous housing authorities have partnered with socialserve.com to create useful technology applications. Established in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1999, socialserve.com, the 501(c)3 not-for-profit national leader in housing locator services, has been recognized by the US Conference of Mayors and the National Housing Institute.

Letters inviting property listings have been sent to thousands of management companies found through internet searching, the executive directors of all of Tennessee's public housing authorities and to developers with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and MultiFamily Bond Authority programs. Listings on TNHousingSearch.org are not targeted to any rent levels. Properties for all incomes are invited. Property managers are invited and urged to log on today to access the free advertising. The listings are free. Searches are free. A call center staffed with English and Spanish-speaking staff can answer questions for landlords and renters from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Property listings can be mailed, too.

The site will be introduced at the Tennessee Association of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities' Spring Workshops April 16. A presentation and information booth are scheduled.

"This is a great step forward for families searching for housing," said THDA's Executive Director, Ted R. Fellman. "We put this concept in our strategic plan and were quite pleased to see the Chattanooga Housing Authority had already established a search capability for its jurisdiction. We are working together. We are contacting property managers and owners all over Tennessee to make this as effective a site as we can. Everyone will benefit."

When the site has a significant selection of properties, THDA will promote its use as a search engine to housing seekers.

“The site is ready to list all the amenities of a property,” said Fellman. “The basics of how many baths, bedrooms, levels, accessibility, utility history can be listed and there will be links to resources: Chambers of Commerce, school districts, and community services. Additionally there is a rent affordability calculator. This is a tremendous resource for those in the rental housing industry.”

Once a property is listed, it remains in the database. When it is leased, the landlord can mark it unavailable and it does not appear as a searcher requests information. A simple process brings the property into a search when unrented again.

Apartment complexes with duplicate amenities are easily posted. Property owners and managers are invited to contact socialserve at 1-877-428-8844 for a registration form. Support for associations seeking properties for persons with disabilities is available.

“Families are looking every day for appropriate rental housing,” said Fellman. “We know this service will be great for them. It will also help when Tennessee steps forward as a volunteer in response to a disaster.”

Questions about TNHousingSearch.org can be directed to THDA’s Chief Strategy Officer Lorrie Shearon – 615-815-2013.

THDA is a political subdivision of the State of Tennessee. THDA is the state’s housing finance agency, responsible for selling tax exempt mortgage revenue bonds to offer affordable mortgage funds to homebuyers of low and moderate incomes through local lenders, and to administer various housing programs targeted to very low-, low- and moderate-income households.

THDA was established in 1973, making its first mortgage in 1974. It has provided affordable fixed rate mortgages to over 96,000 households without using state tax dollars. THDA issues between \$250 and \$300 million in mortgage revenue bonds annually for its first-time homebuyer program.

In the year 2007, THDA created the Tennessee Housing Trust Fund using state, THDA and locally-generated match to support programs for the very-low income, elderly and special needs populations.

More information about THDA is available on-line at www.thda.org.