



April 2024

How Do I Get EDEN Housing?

I'm sure this is the first question you get asked when you tell people you work for EDEN: how does someone get EDEN housing? Many assume that all they have to do is tell you that they need it and you are able to get them housing the next day. We all know it's not that simple. First of all, they may not be eligible for an EDEN housing program because they do not meet the requirements. Secondly, most programs require that people be referred by their case manager or by Coordinated Intake, who will then refer to them to the programs that they are eligible for. Most of the time, they are referred to other housing programs that would better meet their needs.

EDEN has cards that explain how to apply for services—both in English (yellow) and Spanish (blue). You are more than welcome to pick up some and carry them with you. You can get them from the EDEN HQ front desk or by contacting Jacquie at jacq@EDENcle.org.

This is what they say:

Our website has information on various programs and housing that EDEN manages and will provide details on how to be referred or access the programs. See www.EDENcle.org/programs for the comprehensive list of programs, eligibility requirements, and the application process.

Most of EDEN's programs do not accept applications directly from the public. Instead, the majority of referrals come from approved agencies and systems. While there are a few programs and units for which EDEN manages the waitlist—or for which EDEN can accept direct referrals—generally, individuals/households must already be connected with other systems (such as [Coordinated Intake](#), [ADAMHS Board funded agencies](#), [domestic violence support agencies](#), courts/corrections systems, Continuum of Care, supportive youth organizations, etc.). **If you are experiencing a housing crisis and are linked with case management, your first step should be to contact your case manager to explain your housing situation. Your case manager will advise you as to potential housing resources—which may include EDEN programs and services.**

If you are experiencing homelessness and are not linked with case management, your first step should be registering with **COORDINATED INTAKE/COORDINATED ENTRY**. [Coordinated Intake](#) (CI) is for individuals and families who are homeless and have nowhere else to sleep at night. It is the front door to emergency services within the Continuum of Care, Cuyahoga County's network of shelters and housing programs. [Coordinated Entry](#) (CE) is for those who are homeless in Lorain County. When you register with them, they will help you explore what housing programs you are eligible for.

In Cuyahoga County, call **216-674-6700** anytime between 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You will need to make an appointment because intake typically must be done in person. The program is located on the 2nd floor of the Bishop Cosgrove Building at 1736 Superior Avenue.

In Lorain County, call **440-242-0455** between 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Be sure to leave a message with your name and call-back number. If you do not have access to a phone, you can visit their office at

2726 Caroline Ave between 10:00 am – 12:00 pm or 2:00 – 4:00 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday hours are 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

Additionally, United Way 2-1-1 Help Center provides free and confidential 24-hour access to a compassionate professional who will review your options for help, develop a plan, and act as your advocate if you are faced with barriers to service. Simply **dial 2-1-1** for assistance. *Se habla Español*

We also recommend contacting the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Agency (CHMA) to sign up for their waitlist for vouchers and public housing. You can find information about the process at https://www.cmha.net/housing/applicants/housing_choice_vouchers.php.

If you want to find affordable housing, please visit <https://www.affordablehousing.com/> and enter the area you would like to live to begin your search.

Finally, you can reach out to an **ADAMHS Board funded agency** or related agencies to help support you in their needs. Many offer case management services and can help identify the best agency to help you find housing. The list of agencies is at <https://www.adamhsc.org/resources/finding-help/by-provider>. You can click on the agency name to learn more about the services they provide.

Join Us to Watch *The Public ... Every Story Matters*

EDEN's DEI and Events Committees will be hosting a screening of "The Public" on May 10th at 2 p.m. at EDEN's headquarters. Depending on interest, there may be screenings set up throughout different EDEN properties. **Please RSVP by May 2nd to Rachel Miskimins (rmskimins@EDENcle.org).** Hope to see everyone "at the movies"!



The tag line: An act of civil disobedience turns into a standoff with police when homeless people in Cincinnati take over the public library to seek shelter from the bitter cold.

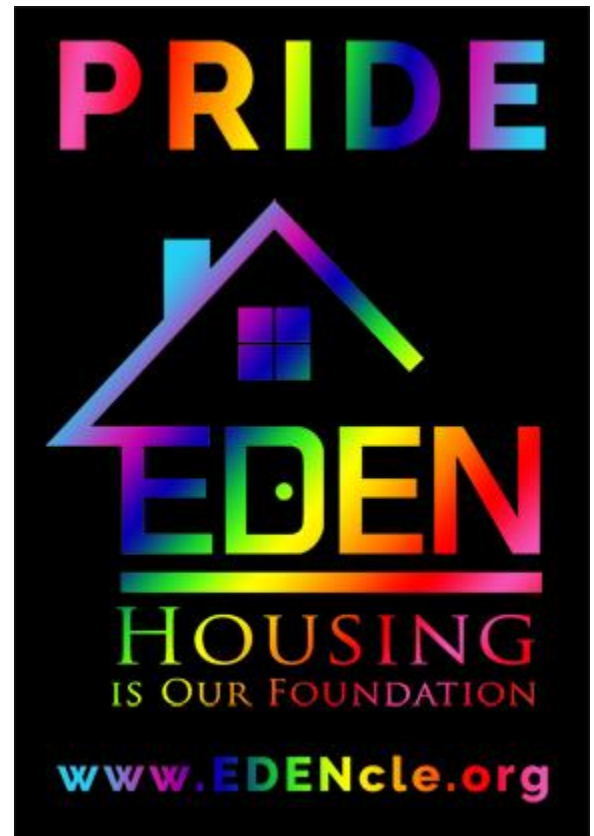
The story: In *The Public*, an unusually bitter Arctic blast has made its way to downtown Cincinnati and the front doors of the public library where the action of the film takes place. The story revolves around the library patrons, many of whom are homeless, mentally ill and marginalized, as well as an exhausted and overwhelmed staff of librarians who often build emotional connections and a sense of obligation to care for those regular patrons. At odds with library officials over how to handle the extreme weather event, the Patrons turn the building into a homeless shelter for the night by staging an "Occupy" sit in. What begins as an act of civil disobedience becomes a stand off with police and a rush-to-judgment media constantly speculating about what's really happening. This David versus Goliath story tackles some of our nation's most challenging issues, homelessness and mental illness and sets the drama inside one of the last bastions of democracy-in-action: your public library.

PRIDE in the CLE

EDEN is marching in the Pride in the CLE® parade Saturday, June 1st. You can register yourself, family, and friends to march in the parade at www.EDENcle.org/staff.

Staging will begin around 10AM in Public Square with the March stepping off at 11 am. The march will begin at Public Square and flow through the streets towards the Malls where the festival will take place. It is just one mile long and lasts 20-25 minutes. The full march will last just about an hour. Organizers strongly encourage public transportation and ride sharing apps. If you are planning to park downtown, please note that access around the festival, particularly Lakeside will be limited with much of the road closed. See <https://lgbtcleveland.org/pride/march/> for the march route.

Organizers shared the following about the March: “The annual Pride in the CLE® March kicks off Cleveland’s Pride celebration as a reminder that Pride is not a moment, but a movement. We continue to honor the history and foundational ideas that make Pride special to this day with our march. This visible demonstration of support for the LGBTQ+ community shows that we cannot and will not be silent in our march towards equality for all.



PRIDE
in the **CLE**®

Pride in the CLE® March adheres to the grass roots ideals of early Pride celebrations that sprung forth following the Stonewall Inn uprisings in 1969. With this in mind we aim to lift up the voices of our community and advocate for social justice by way of a march through our beloved city streets. We also commemorate the thousands who have marched over the last half century demanding the fair and equal treatment of the LGBTQ+ community.

Pride in the CLE's signature event is a march that aims to show off our community's strength and unity. Visitors are encouraged to come to the march being their authentic selves. Following the kick-off march, the event turns into a bustling all-day festival featuring a diverse array of vendors - areas of interest include healthcare, activism, social groups and nonprofits - as well as a robust slate of music, entertainment and DJs. In addition to the many amazing daytime festivities, expect a variety of nighttime events located in neighborhoods and indoor venues throughout the city.”

April is National Fair Housing Month!

Note: This is a reprint of an article from EDEN's April 2023 newsletter. The information is so important that we decided that it was worth printing it again.

The greater Cleveland area is lucky to have the **Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research**, one of the best such organizations in the country. It focuses on three major activities:

- conducting research on housing and lending patterns in Northeast Ohio and throughout the state.
- conducting fair housing law seminars and events for landlords, property managers, real estate professionals, social workers, attorneys, government officials, newspaper publishers, and others.
- enforcing fair housing laws, including compensating victims, detecting discrimination, and deterring future acts of discrimination.



During April, they are promoting the Fair Housing Month of Action to expand everyone's fair housing knowledge so we can all become better advocates for housing justice. Daily challenges, resources, and activities are at www.thehousingcenter.org/action.

The photos and quotes below are from the Center's "Voices of Fair Housing" webpage. These are very short videos that describe the impact of housing discrimination on people who have lived it. We encourage you to visit the page at www.thehousingcenter.org/voices.

Fair Housing Is a Civil Right

Landlords must abide by fair housing laws. It is illegal to discriminate in housing, deny housing, or make housing unavailable based on a protected class. This also means you cannot charge more or limit housing options to people based on:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Disability (includes both physical and mental health disabilities)
- Religion
- Familial Status (the presence of children under the age of 18)



I was working 2 jobs, going to church and school, and I had an EDEN voucher. I called 11 different landlords, and they all said they wouldn't accept my voucher. I was so scared because I didn't want to go back to living under that bridge. ...
Willie, Part 1

Note: In part 1, Willie says, "Among the ranks of the homeless and people in treatment, the EDEN voucher is the gold standard! That's what everybody hopes they get." His story is very powerful!

Ohio has identified two additional protected classes:

- Ancestry
- Military Status

In addition, many local laws prohibit discrimination based on:

- Marital Status
- Creed
- Age
- Source of Income

What is Prohibited?

The Fair Housing Act covers most housing. In very limited circumstances, the Act exempts owner-occupied buildings with no more than four units, single-family houses sold or rented by the owner without the use of an agent, and housing operated by religious organizations and private clubs that limit occupancy to members.

It is illegal discrimination to take any of the following actions because of race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, familial status, or national origin:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Otherwise make housing unavailable
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- Provide a person different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
- Make, print or publish any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination
- Use different qualification criteria or applications, or sale or rental standards or procedures, such as income standards, application requirements, application fees, credit analyses, sale or rental approval procedures or other requirements
- Impose different sales prices or rental charges for the sale or rental of a dwelling
- Evict a tenant or a tenant's guest
- Harass a person
- Fail or delay performance of maintenance or repairs
- Limit privileges, services or facilities of a dwelling
- Discourage the purchase or rental of a dwelling
- Assign a person to a particular building or neighborhood or section of a building or neighborhood
- Persuade, or try to persuade, homeowners to sell their homes by suggesting that people of a particular protected characteristic are about to move into the neighborhood (blockbusting)
- Refuse to provide or discriminate in the terms or conditions of homeowners insurance



I asked a white friend to call 5 landlords and give the same information I was giving them. Out of the 5, 2 said they would accept vouchers. When I called them 30 minutes later, they denied me again. ... Willie, Part 2



His voicemail message said that he wanted single women only and no kids. I told him that what he was doing was against the law, but he didn't want to listen. He became nasty. I called the Fair Housing Center. They listened, said that my concerns were valid, and then reached out to that individual. It was an awesome feeling. ... Karyn

Consequences of Discrimination

The Fair Housing Center offers free assistance to victims in the administrative complaint process. Our advocates are available to assist victims of housing discrimination in a variety of ways, which may include providing education on their rights, investigating a complaint, engaging with a housing provider on a tenant's behalf, or supporting victims in exercising their fair housing rights.

Cases filed by the Fair Housing Center have resulted in conciliation agreements, civil penalties and affirmative action agreements with individual housing providers throughout Greater Cleveland.

See the booklet published by HUD—**Fair Housing: Equal Opportunity for All**—for more information about the law and the penalties that can be imposed on violators. It is available on our website at www.EDENcle.org/resources.



I got out of prison 16 years ago. I had paid my dues and did what I needed to do to be a productive member of society. I turned my life around and became a man of God and a minister. But they closed doors in my face and denied me housing. ... *Marcus*

What To Do When You Are Aware of Housing Discrimination

- 1) Educate both tenants and housing providers by sharing the information on the Fair Housing website: www.thehousingcenter.org
- 2) Encourage housing providers to contact the Fair Housing Center:
 - Send an email to education@thehousingcenter.org.
 - Call (216) 361-9240 and leave a voicemail, including your name, a brief message, and the best way to reach you. *Due to a high volume of calls and emails, please allow up to two (2) business days for a response from an advocate.*
- 3) Encourage tenants to contact the Fair Housing Center:
 - Complete the form at <https://www.thehousingcenter.org/report-housing-discrimination/>.
 - Send an email to advocates@thehousingcenter.org to contact a fair housing advocate.
 - call (216) 361-9240 and leave a voicemail, including your name, a brief message, and the best way to reach you. *Due to a high volume of calls and emails, please allow up to two (2) business days for a response from an advocate.*



It's not just housing. It's about quality of life. It's a way to help people survive, move on with their life, and be better people. ... *Monica*

Staff Profile

Michael Parks

Michael Parks, Supervisor of Short-Term Assistance, is a man with many experiences, interests, and ambitions. “I am an Army combat veteran. I am the founder of The Marcus Q. Woods Memorial Scholarship. I own a mobile billboard advertising business called Think Outside the Box, and I am a member of Team Rubicon—a veteran-led humanitarian organization aiding in crisis/disaster relief. I would like to publish the book I am currently working on, and I plan to trek Mt. Kilimanjaro.”

Michael chose working for nonprofits because of his life experiences and strong desire to change people’s lives for the better. Before joining EDEN, he was a Housing Inspector for CMHA for many years. He then became an Environmental Service Manager at area hospitals and long-term care facilities. When working for EDEN became a possibility, he excitedly pursued the opportunity. “I genuinely believe in EDEN’s mission and its commitment to creating inclusive communities for those facing challenges and homelessness. I like using my compassion, understanding, and empathy to help make their lives better.”

When he becomes involved in a cause, Michael likes to witness its impact. “I had donated several items to the men’s shelter.

When I went to see a client weeks later, I found that many of my donated items were put to beneficial use. It was great to see that I was able to directly impact people who needed and appreciated the donation.”

In his off-hours, Michael is committed to his family. “I have been married to Rebecca Parks for 15 years. I have a 31-year-old daughter and two sons who are 23 and 19. I am also the proud “Pop-Pop” to two beautiful grandchildren, Avery (18 months) and Nola (3 months). I have an alpha female cat named Bobbi and a needy, fun-loving Beagle-lab mix named Logan.”

“I enjoy reading, biking, traveling, shopping, and being the designated amateur family photographer,” he adds. “My ongoing goal is to continue to build relationships and volunteer, donate to, and help others as much as I am able.”



Rebecca and Michael Parks at EDEN's HOMECOMING 2023



Recognize a Fellow Employee

Let’s celebrate excellence at EDEN! If you are aware of a staff person doing something really great, tell us about it! Go to www.EDENcle.org/staff and click on the link on the right. Just enter the person’s name and why they deserve recognition!

Client Story Initiative

Meet Char

Char grew up in the foster system. So when her son was 6 weeks old and was fostered out, she worked with his grandmother to make sure he didn't experience what she did. "His grandmother was able to adopt and raise him, and I am so very grateful he is with family who loves him. He was diagnosed with autism and ADHD, which makes it even more important that he is cared for by someone who is patient and understands his needs."

Char lost her home in 2016, and she spent a year and a half at the Norma Herr Women's Center shelter. She heard that a particular staff member at FrontLine knew about housing, so Char proactively went to the agency and sought her out for guidance. Within 2 days of meeting with this individual, Char secured an apartment at GreenBridge Commons, a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) apartment building on Euclid Avenue.

Char lived at GreenBridge for about five years. She loved her apartment because her son could come and visit on weekends while his grandmother took a break. During that time, however, her doctors noticed that she had severe spine issues and they insisted she have surgery. It was a long recovery, but Char persevered and was able to get through it.

Unfortunately, in 2022, Char and her son began having issues with a nearby resident. Because of the urgency of the situation, a housing court judge scheduled an immediate meeting with Char, listened to her story, and cleared her of any wrongdoing related to the situation.

In order to avoid further issues, Char asked to be transferred to the Commons at West Village, another of EDEN's PSH buildings which is located on Cleveland's west side. Char started hosting her son on weekends again, and they really enjoyed each other's company.

One day, while she was walking to see a friend, Char suddenly found it difficult to walk a straight line. She fell into someone's yard. A woman came out to help her, and Char was unable to talk. Thankfully, the woman called a neighbor who was an emergency responder. He told her that Char needed to get to the hospital right away because she was having a stroke. She spent several days at the Cleveland Clinic while the doctors tried to keep her stable and mitigate the damage from her multiple strokes.

Thankfully, Char is getting her health back, although she still finds it difficult to walk. She is now working on getting signed up for disability and social security so that she can transition into an EDEN scattered site. Her goal is to find a two bedroom home so that she and her son can finally live together. "Thank God for his grandmother helping all these years, but she is getting old. Once I get my new home, my son and I can live together and I can take care of him like I want to."



Client Story Initiative



We are determined to spread the word about how housing transforms the lives of those who have been at risk for homelessness or unhoused! Please think about the clients you work with. Do any have interesting stories? Would they be willing to share? If so, please forward their name and phone number to Jacquie. If you want to call her on TEAMS to discuss this and get some ideas, please feel free to do so.

Current Job Postings

For more information, visit www.EDENcle.org/work or contact Toya Jordan at tjordan@EDENcle.org.

- Accounts Payable Specialist Section 8
- Director of Finance
- Director of Human Resources
- Facilities Manager
- Fill-in Front Desk Clerk (Part-time)
- Finance Manager
- Front Desk Clerk-Full Time (3)
- Housing Locator for External Assistance
- Maintenance Technician for Residential Housing Buildings (2)
- Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing Projects
- Painter
- Property Manager of Permanent Supportive Housing Residential Building

Welcome New Hires!

Welcome to everyone who has been hired from March 15 through April 15!

- Jasmine Sharp..... Property Manager
- Shirley Lawrence..... PRN Front Desk
- Kathleen Junior..... PRN Front Desk
- Antoinette McCall..... PRN Front Desk
- Brenda Venson-Holly PRN Front Desk
- Kim Malley PRN Front Desk
- Nathan Parson Construction Manager
- Garvette Forte-Miller Property Manager

Congratulations to Staff on the Move!

Congratulations to the following staff who have been promoted, changed positions, or earned certification from March 15 through April 15!

- William Karp Property Manager, Harper’s Point
- Michelle Pollack Accounting Manager – Asset Management & Maintenance
- Kathleen Junior Full Time Front Desk at Buckeye Square



We Want Your Feedback and Suggestions!

We want to hear from you! Your work is very important to us, and we know that you have some great ideas that can help us improve how we do business. Please go to www.EDENcle.org/staff and submit your feedback and suggestions. Thank you!

EDEN Apparel

Melanie Minyard is now coordinating EDEN's Apparel Program. Her email is mminyard@EDENcle.org. Go to www.EDENcle.org/staff for a link to the order form. Be sure to order jackets and hoodies!

