

What is RENT?

Housingworkers.ca

Our History:

In September of 2000, 90 housing professionals from 80 organizations in Toronto gathered to discuss their networking and training needs. They were some of the first professionals to be impacted by a growing homelessness crisis with no real training supports. Workers were learning by doing. They agreed that the best way to share effective practices in the sector was through networking and workshops. This led to the creation of RENT (Resources Exist for Networking and Training) in 2001.

The RENT housing worker network became a program of East York East Toronto Family Resources.

What is RENT?

RENT provides training, tools, and an online community of best practice to reduce homelessness among vulnerable and low-income people. This happens in-person and online at www.housingworkers.ca and is available to people working in the housing sector.

Our services:

Housingworkers.ca is the hub of communication, programs and resources for housing professionals in Toronto and

beyond, offering:

1. Training

- Training sessions on emerging issues in the homelessness reduction sector
- Cross-sector networking sessions between housing and ancillary sectors
- Workforce Development Training Certificate focused on developing skills and competencies for working in the field

2. Resources

- Database of members searchable by work context, client population, language, and location
- The 'Housing Help Resource Toolkit'; developed in partnership with the City of Toronto, provides public information on community resources that support Housing Access, Stabilization, and Eviction Prevention
- Online Discussion Boards to post questions, share information, and create connections
- Videos, resources and tip sheets designed to complement housing professionals and their work.
- Articles, reports and research in our

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online library

- Housing Network News e-Bulletin and Job Postings e-mail
- Practical information recommended for housing professionals
- Current news highlights, other trainings, and advocacy campaigns

3. Networking

RENT staff participate in City-related and independent housing planning tables such as the:

- Rental Housing Advisory Committee
- Immigrant and Refugee Housing Committee
- Rooming House Working Group
- Housing Action Now
- Housing Help Network

4. Landlord Connect

- Landlord Connect, piloted in 2006, aims to reduce homelessness by connecting housing professionals with landlords in an online environment.
- Landlords who agree to post units within Landlord Connect affordability guidelines and work with their tenants' housing

professionals gain access to free rental advertising, a connection to housing workers, assistance with arranging housing follow-up services, and a forum to register issues and successes they have when working with community agencies.

- For housing professionals who agree to support Landlord Connect tenancies for the duration of the tenancy. Landlord Connect introduces relationships with new and existing landlords, provides housing vacancy information, and a forum to register issues and successes they have when working with private landlords.