

columbiacare services, inc.

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

PORTLAND METRO AREA

Clackamas County, Multnomah County & Washington County

What is RAP? ColumbiaCare Services Rental Assistance Program (RAP) is a state and county funded project, similar to HUD's Section 8, wherein the tenant pays a portion of their rent and ColumbiaCare pays the remaining balance directly to the landlord. (ColumbiaCare reviews each applicant's income to determine if they are eligible for the program.)

Individuals we work with typically face barriers in obtaining housing and it is our focus to help them to overcome those obstacles. We provide support throughout the entire process to help our tenants obtain and maintain housing and to continue to be ongoing successful members of the community.

How do we help? Our skilled staff works with the tenants to determine their specific housing wants and needs in order to best tailor our housing search to meet their individual preferences and requirements. Then, we identify potential properties that meet the criteria, reach out to the landlord or property manager, obtain the required applications, and work with the tenant to complete them and gather necessary documentation. Once submitted, ColumbiaCare advocates for the tenant and alleviates concerns the tenant and landlord may have during the process.

ColumbiaCare staff also assesses the tenant's resources and will provide assistance with application fees, security deposits, rent subsidy, and other miscellaneous expenses through state funding for this project. Once a tenant is placed in housing, the staff will provide ongoing support and education around what it means to be a good tenant and neighbor, how to build rental history and credit, securing and maintaining utilities, accessing community resources, and how to locate and utilize public transit systems.

A Win/Win Situation. By encouraging the tenant to develop and meet their own housing goals, the Rental Assistance Program allows them to discover their place in a comfortable environment they've helped to create. This teamwork dynamic also promotes the growth of positive relationships and independence.

For more information about RAP, please contact Ben Solheim, Community Based Service Program Administrator at 503.654.7654 or bsolheim@columbiacare.org.



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