

**How Much Will It Cost?****Lesson 1****What Do the Ads Tell You?**

Before making a decision on which apartments to visit, determine and compare the total costs—rent, any utility charges, and other possible costs, such as parking.

Call the number listed for a unit and find out needed information on the cost of the unit. Ask such questions:

- What is the address of the unit?

- What is included in the rent?

- What utilities does the tenant pay?

- How much have these costs been in the past?

Landlords are to provide this information; however, it is the renter's responsibility to ask for it. If you have the address, you can get information on past usage by calling the utility company.

- What other costs would the tenant be expected to pay?

Use the answers to these questions to fill in the worksheet and compare costs.

# How Much Will It Cost?

## Lesson 1

### Rental Cost Comparison

When looking for a place to live, check out all the costs. Before applying to a rental unit or signing a rental agreement or lease, ask questions to determine all of the costs you would be expected to pay.

Use the chart to help you compare the total costs of rental units.

| Unit                               | #1        | #2        | #3        |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                    |           |           |           |
|                                    |           |           |           |
| <b>Expense (initial cost)</b>      |           |           |           |
| Security deposit                   |           |           |           |
| Application deposit*               |           |           |           |
| Other                              |           |           |           |
|                                    |           |           |           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b> |
|                                    |           |           |           |
| <b>Monthly Cost</b>                |           |           |           |
| Rent                               |           |           |           |
| Heat                               |           |           |           |
| Water & sewer                      |           |           |           |
| Trash pick-up                      |           |           |           |
| Parking                            |           |           |           |
| Other                              |           |           |           |
|                                    |           |           |           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>\$</b> |
| Money needed 1 <sup>st</sup> month |           |           |           |

\* Some landlords charge applicants a fee when they apply for an apartment. The amount may be \$25-50. Often this covers charges for a credit report.