

Off-Campus Housing

The Off-Campus Housing Liaison assists students by helping them:

- Complete the FAFSA and financial aid paperwork.
- Set up counseling appointments.
- Search for housing.
- Connect with County and local services that can assist in a time of need.
- Connect with EOPS/TRiO/ and other on campus services.
- Connect with other students who are also looking for off-campus housing.
- Connect with rental agencies.

About our Housing Liaison, Justin Lee Fishman

I am a Kinesiology student here at College of the Redwoods.

When I first moved to the area I became homeless with my partner and my 18 month old daughter. I had tried to secure housing before I came, but many of the property managers had requirements of being in person to view certain housing listings. I also had to be physically present to enroll my daughter in daycare. We landed here on my birthday, during the summer, planning on camping until I secured housing. I had no idea that Humboldt County was so housing impacted. What I thought would be a couple of weeks turned into nine weeks. It cost my partner and I almost all of our school loans and Pell Grant disbursements, about ten-thousand dollars.

During our homelessness my family was distraught. We felt as though we had failed. We went to our classes diligently, but it was difficult to do our homework with no Wi-Fi. Our phones kept dying, and sometimes our car battery too, because we were using it to charge our phones. We gained a lot of weight because of stress and having to eat fast food most of the time. It was very difficult to overcome emotionally and physically, in order to do classwork.

The good news is that through diligence and connections we made in the community, we were able to secure housing.

Though the ordeal itself was over, it was still something that affected me. I dealt with depression because of my situation. Depression that affected me longer than just the time that I was homeless. I sought help and have overcome this issue as well.

I want all students to know that housing insecurity is a very real thing, not only in California, but in America. If you should need any assistance in finding housing, are housing insecure or homeless, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office.

If you need assistance, or information regarding off campus housing, are experiencing housing insecurity (homeless, couch-surfing, etc.), please contact:

Justin Lee Fishman, Housing Liaison

707-476-4195

housing-liaison@redwoods.edu

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

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