

**RentWise is a program to help renters obtain and keep rental housing and to be successful renters through education.**

The program includes information on:

- **Managing Your Money**
- **Communicating with Landlords and Neighbors**
- **Finding a Place to Call Home**
- **Getting Through the Rental Process**
- **Taking Care of a Home**
- **When you Move Out**
- **Where to go for help with problems**

RentWise was originally created by the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota and licensed to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. Collaboration members include: NE Assistive Technology, NE Health & Human Services, NE Housing Developers Assoc., Region V, and UN-L Extension.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is an equal opportunity educator and employer with a comprehensive plan for diversity.

Sessions are generally conducted twice a month on the second and fourth weeks of the month. Certification is received after all six sessions are completed.

### **RentWise Lincoln Network Members**

Centerpointe  
Friendship Home  
Hoppe Homes, LP  
Hoppe, Harner, Vogt and Barrows, LLP  
Lincoln Action Program  
Lincoln/Lancaster Health Department-Healthy Homes  
Lincoln Housing Authority  
NE Assistive Technology  
NE Health & Human Services  
NE Housing Developers Association  
Region V Systems  
REOMA (Real Estate Owners and Managers Association)  
Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension



Registration forms are available at participating organizations or [www.l-housing.com](http://www.l-housing.com).

For more information about sessions in your area contact:

### **Lincoln Housing Authority**

**RentWise Coordinator**  
**Lincoln Housing Authority**  
**5700 R Street**  
**Lincoln, NE 68505**  
**Or**  
**Call 402-434-5500**  
**TDD# 1-800-545-1833 Ext. 875**  
**Or**  
**Go to web site [www.l-housing.com](http://www.l-housing.com)**  
**under "RentWise"**

RentWise is a tenant education program that helps people know how to find and keep decent rental housing, and how to become more successful renters through education. Renters who complete this program of six modules earn a certificate of completion to show potential landlords and property managers that they want to be good tenants.

RentWise teaches skill to help tenants avoid confrontations.



*"My guess is the RentWise Program was founded with the intention of transforming the minds of tenants with a rental history such as my own. And it has done just that. I only regret that, this programs wasn't made available when I was 18."*

*...Former RentWise participant*

### **Why RentWise:**

Comparisons between RentWise participants and a control group suggest that participants learn new skills and behaviors.

\$ Participants are more likely to use a spending plan with affordable rent, complete a neat, written rental application, request screening criteria when applying for rental housing, and practice good communication skills with landlords and neighbors.

\$ They are less likely to rely on shelters and have recently changed their children's school.

\$ They are more likely to be in permanent housing, report improvement in their housing, positively evaluate their current neighborhood, and be satisfied with their current housing, as well as the cost of their current housing.

\$ Furthermore they are more likely to feel positive about their life, and to expect their standard of living to improve within the next three years.

RentWise program is intended to help renters to...

- Better understand the benefits of good communication
- Improve ability to resolve problems with neighbors and landlords
- Move less often and increase housing stability
- Know more about searching for safe, affordable housing that meets their needs
- Better manage resources and money

### **RentWise is for...**

- Any individual who needs rental housing
- Young adults moving into independent living
- Individuals and families in emergency shelters or transitional housing
- New immigrants
- Renters who need money management skills to build the credit and rental histories needed to qualify for a mortgage