



Rent Smart: Helping tenants find and keep safe and affordable housing

Rent Smart focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for a successful renting experience. It challenges participants to know and understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, as well as the rights and responsibilities of their landlord. Emphasis is on forming a strong partnership between the tenant and landlord. **Rent Smart** starts participants on the right path for success.

Beginning in July 2020 educators moved from in-person local courses to monthly statewide virtual programs. A follow-up survey was conducted in April 2021 with July-November course participants.

100% Were able to solve problems in their rental unit or had not encountered any problems.

87% Have been able to pay their rent on time.

75% Of those who moved into new rental housing since completing the course say it is safer, more affordable, and better quality than their previous housing.

In June and Dec. 2020 and June 2021 educators conducted train-the-trainer courses to help community service providers learn how to use Rent Smart with their clients. After taking the course...

93% Feel better able to help vulnerable clientele overcome housing challenges compared to 49% who felt they could do so before the course.

89% Feel able to help clientele find the best available affordable and quality housing compared to 52% who could do so before the course.

93% Can help clientele sustain housing once it's acquired compared to only 49% who felt able to do this before taking the course.

What People are Saying

"I learned a lot in the course & have shared the information with others. This was required to educate & help me in the future when I am no longer receiving housing assistance. The program & information provided, especially the book, are **fabulously empowering tools & resources.**"



"This was my first time even talking about this and **I feel a lot more confident** in addressing the needs of those that I serve."

"I assist folks with cognitive disabilities who are very low income. We hope to start a renters' rehab type program and **these materials are a fantastic starting point.**"

Achieving More Together

UW-Madison Division of Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs where people live and work – on the farm, in schools and throughout urban and rural communities. With educators in all 72 counties, on 5 campuses and within 5 tribal nations, we're helping our neighbors put their own great ideas into practice with the support of our expertise, resources and university research.