

Weast, Bradley

Subject: Housing in Great Falls for Tonight

I relocated to Great Falls, Montana from Owensboro, KY to accept this amazing job as Vice President of Human Resources at Great Falls Clinic Hospital. Not only did I bring myself, but I also brought my 83-year-old parents and daughter. While it was reasonably easy to find an apartment for myself and daughter, it was not easy to find an apartment for my parents.

The apartment costs here are astronomical compared to Kentucky, especially when you are on a fixed income. They ended up in an apartment that was substantially below what they are used to living in. They went from living in a modern 2-bedroom 2 bath apartment with a washer and dryer in it on the first floor to a 2-bedroom 2-bath apartment with no washer or dryer, and they must take a flight of stairs to get up to it.

It was the only apartment they could afford and even then, it is not affordable, but they don't qualify for reduced housing. The only apartments that they can afford are the split-level entries, and my parents cannot use stairs very easily. I say all of this because I think it is important to know the perception of someone moving into Great Falls from another state from all age ranges.

It costs more here than it did in Owensboro with limited options. The new apartments that my daughter and I chose to live in is not soundproof and costs \$1900. Most people cannot afford that, and it is only affordable because my daughter and I both have incomes, and it isn't even quality housing. We chose to make this move, and it was not an easy decision because of the housing situation.

✓ Great Falls has so much to offer, and while I am the VP of HR, I will be having to have hard conversations with candidates potentially relocating here and I would hate to lose them due to the housing. I want them to see and love Great Falls the way I did when I flew in for my interview, but we cannot "sell" Great Falls without proper housing and pricing.

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