



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

400 LA CROSSE STREET | LA CROSSE, WI 54601 | P: (608) 789-7512 | F: (608) 789-7318

**To: Human Rights Commission**

**From: Annie Maloney, Caroline Gregerson**

**12/1/2020**

### **Approval of Rent Smart Program**

Consumer Credit Counseling Services – Rent Smart Course

From the CCCS Website:

*The Rent Smart program helps participants overcome challenges in finding and securing rental housing, develop a positive relationship with their landlord, resolve problems, and avoid the need to move often. There is also Fair Housing rights embedded throughout the course.*

- The City would pay for CCCS to run this program
  - o If there is a space big enough for social distancing, CCCS would host an in-person session if it follows CDC and State guidelines. Otherwise, the event could be virtual sessions
- Currently the program is 8 hours long
  - o The course could be shortened to 4, 2-hour sessions, or 8, 1-hour sessions
  - o People attending the course can then choose which sessions they want to attend
- All Rent Smart instructors are HUD certified
- The Program has fair housing embedded throughout, but the instructors could make that more of a focus
- Examples of Topics Covered
  - o What to do if units are sub-par.
  - o Tenants' rights against landlords.
  - o Application processes
  - o Understanding a Lease
    - Legal vs. Illegal Leases
- Waiting for CCCS to write up a quote and/or contract to look over.

Questions for the Commission

- What are the topics you would like covered at these trainings?
- Do you have any ideas for incentivizing participation?
- What would be the preferred medium for this program?
  - o i.e. Virtual? Meeting in a large space?



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