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VHDA Offers Free Online Renter Education Course

RICHMOND – Whether it's a house, apartment, duplex or townhouse, renting can have its advantages. If you are thinking about renting a home, VHDA's free online Renter Education course can help.

The course, titled "How to be a Successful Renter," allows participants to learn the entire rental process from start to finish, and how to stay on track as a responsible renter. The course is also offered for free, with no obligation.

"For many people, renting a home is a better option than buying one," said LaDonna Cruse, Housing Education Manager at VHDA. "This online course can be very helpful to renters because it covers important issues, including tenant rights and responsibilities, Virginia laws and regulations, common misunderstandings, challenges and barriers, fair housing concerns, scams and much more. So if renting works best for you, this course is a great way of doing it right and being successful at it."

The course is divided into nine sections, with an assessment at the end of each that learners must pass to earn a certificate. The nine sections are:

- Are You Financially Ready to Rent?
- The Ins & Outs of Credit
- How to Find the Right Place
- Handling the Application Process
- Understanding the Lease Agreement
- Getting Back Your Security Deposit

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- Life as a Renter: Rights & Responsibilities
- Housekeeping, Maintenance & Repairs
- The Right Way to Terminate the Lease

"One of the benefits of this course is its flexibility," added Cruse. "For example, renters can take the course on their schedule because it's available online and is mobile compatible. Participants can also choose to complete only those sections that interest them. In addition, the course is free and open to anyone who would like to learn more about renting."

Please visit www.vhda.com/renters to learn more about the free course or to begin taking it. It is currently available in English, and will be offered in Spanish in the near future.

About VHDA

When homes are affordable and accessible to jobs, good schools and transportation, everyone benefits. Individual lives are improved and communities as a whole grow stronger. VHDA was created in 1972 by the General Assembly to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. We carry out this mission by working in public-private partnerships with local governments, community service organizations, lenders, Realtors, developers and many others. We provide mortgages for first-time homebuyers, as well as financing for apartment communities and neighborhood revitalization efforts. We offer free homebuyer classes, support housing counseling, and help people with disabilities and the elderly make their homes more livable. We also administer the federal Housing Choice Voucher and Housing Credit programs in Virginia. VHDA is self-supporting and receives no state taxpayer dollars to fund our programs. Instead, we raise money in the capital markets, and we contribute a significant portion of our net revenues each year to help meet Virginia's most difficult housing needs.

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