



# Forming a Tenant Union

## 1: Form a team

**No one can form a union alone.**

- Find a small group of people in your building, usually 3-4 people that you trust and are as fed up as you are and ready to do something together.
- Make sure you have a common goal or set of goals to work towards.
- Try to include at least one long term tenant early in the process.

## 2: Learn your Community's Interests

**Talk to your neighbors.**

- Go door to door to ask your neighbors about the issues they face as renters.
- Spend more time listening to their problems than discussing your own.
- Share your concerns and explain how they could take collective action.
- Write down who you talked to, how the conversation went, and their contact info if they were willing to share it.
- Talk with your team about the conversations they had and adapt your goals according to responses from the community.

## 3: Plan and prepare your First Meeting

- Set a **time, date** and **place** for your meeting
- Assign roles for the meeting:
  - Who will facilitate?
  - Who is going to take notes?
  - Who is going to provide childcare?
- **Invite your neighbors.** Go back and talk to your neighbors again and invite them to the meeting. Invite as many people as possible.

## 4: Hold your First Meeting

- After everyone has introduced themselves and the importance of taking notes is explained, get down to business.
- Get a sense for what the **building-wide** issues are, the things that everyone has problems with. These are the kinds of issues you can build around, the kinds of issues that make people want to work together.
- Discuss what's worked (or hasn't) in the past when trying to get the landlord to do their job or to back off, whatever is needed.
- Vote on what action or tactic the community will take as a group to fix an issue.

