

## OUR MISSION

We promote fair housing and diverse communities, and work to eliminate housing discrimination in Northeast Ohio, by providing effective research, education and advocacy.

Since 1983, the Housing Center has promoted equal access to housing and diverse communities for residents of Northeast Ohio with:

### Research Reports

- Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing
- Community Lending Factbooks
- Reports on Local Occupancy Codes
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending
- Obtaining and Maintaining Housing for People with Mental Health Disabilities
- Landlord Training Manuals, and
- The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio

### Education and Outreach

- Trainings for housing professionals
- Programs for housing buyers and renters in English and Spanish
- “Street Teams” for tabling and community events
- Speakers Bureau available for presentations
- Brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, Urdu and Arabic

### Enforcement

- Monitor rental, sales, homeowners insurance, and lending markets for discriminatory practices

### Advocacy

- Propose and enforce effective fair housing laws
- Facilitate the Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Collaborative
- Collaborate with national, state, and local organizations



## FAIR HOUSING

# For Immigrants



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This pamphlet is intended to convey information. Nothing in this pamphlet should be relied upon as legal advice, nor should this pamphlet be regarded as creating an attorney-client relationship.

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**The Housing Center**  
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Discrimination in housing has persisted despite being outlawed in 1968. All people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration status are protected by fair housing laws. People often don't report it because they don't know that fair housing is a civil right and that there is help available.

## National Origin and Ancestry

National origin is a protected class under federal law. This protects people from discrimination in housing based on their country of origin, culture, or language. Ohio also protects people from discrimination based on ancestry. A housing provider cannot discriminate because of a person's parents and grandparents birthplace.

A person cannot be denied housing opportunities based on:

- Being from or having family from another country
- Having a name associated with a certain national origin
- Having an accent associated with a certain national origin
- Participating in certain customs associated with a national origin
- Being married to or associated with people from a certain national origin

## Possible Signs of Discrimination

Comments like these can be signs of housing discrimination:

"Because of your accent, I will need proof of your citizenship before I can give you an

application."

"You don't want to live in that neighborhood."

"We only rent to people who speak English."

## What is Prohibited?

These actions are illegal if they are done because a person belongs to a protected class:

### Rental and Sale of Housing:

- Refuse to rent or sell housing
- Refuse to negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable or otherwise restrict choice
- Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of housing
- Provide different housing services or facilities
- Falsely deny that housing is available
- Persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting)
- Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service related to the sale or rental of housing
- Retaliate against a person for making a fair housing complaint.

### Mortgage Lending and Insurance:

- Refuse to make a mortgage loan or provide homeowners insurance
- Refuse to provide information regarding loans or insurance
- Impose different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different rates, or fees
- Discriminate in appraising property
- Refuse to purchase a loan
- Set different terms or conditions to purchase a loan

It is also illegal for anyone to:

- Threaten, coerce, intimidate, or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right.
- Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on a protected class, such as "No Foreigners," or "Americans Only," or "Prefer citizens of the United States."

## *Where to go for help?*

If you think you have been a victim of housing discrimination because of your race, national origin, religion, sex, color, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, please contact the Housing Research & Advocacy Center for assistance at 216-361-9240.

You can also contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 1-888-278-7101 or online at

[www.crc.ohio.gov](http://www.crc.ohio.gov); or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777 or online at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

If you are hearing impaired, please call 1-800-927-9275. HUD also offers assistance with reading and completing HUD forms through interpreters, tapes, and Braille materials