Our Mission

We work to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities.

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

Research
- Analyses of Impediments to Fair Housing
- Community Lending Factbooks
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending
- Consumer Manual
- 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, and Arabic

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

Advocacy
- Propose and enforce effective fair housing laws
- Facilitate the Greater Cleveland Fair Housing Collaborative
- Collaborate with national, state, and local organizations
- Provide assistance to victims of housing discrimination

FAIR HOUSING
For the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning) Community

Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research
2728 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: (216) 361-9240
Fax: (216) 426-1290
Email: info@thehousingcenter.org
www.thehousingcenter.org

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.

This brochure was produced with generous support from

Equality Ohio

© 2018 Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research
In 2010, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offered clarification on its policy to ensure its programs are open to all eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

The regulations require:

- Equal access in housing funded by HUD and housing that holds a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

This means that owners and operators of HUD-funded housing or housing insured by FHA* are prohibited from:

- Asking about an applicant’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status for the purpose of determining eligibility or otherwise making the housing available.
- Denying an applicant housing based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identify, or marital status.

Discrimination Prohibited in Housing Receiving Federal Financial Assistance

Examples of Housing that Receives Federal Financial Assistance

Examples of Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:

- A housing provider will not rent to two men who are in a relationship, stating that he would not feel comfortable having them as tenants.
- A housing provider harasses a tenant because the tenant is a transgender individual.
- A housing provider who receives federal financial assistance falsely states that nothing is available because of the gender identity of the tenant's partner.
- A lender will not make a loan to two financially qualified women because they are in a same sex relationship.
- A housing provider evicts a tenant when she finds out the tenant is gay/lesbian/transgender.

Local Fair Housing Protections

Ohio fair housing laws do not currently offer protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity; however, there are many local ordinances which do.

The following municipalities in Northeast Ohio include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under fair housing laws:

Sexual Orientation:
Brook Park, Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Linndale, Maple Heights, Newburgh Heights, North Olmsted, Olmsted Falls, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, Warrensville Heights

Gender Identity:
Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Lakewood, Linndale, Maple Heights, Olmsted Falls, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, Warrensville Heights

Where to go for help?
If you think you have been a victim of housing discrimination because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, sex, color, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, please contact the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research assistance at 216-361-9240.

* A private housing provider who receives an FHA mortgage loan and who rents the property is prohibited from discriminating or inquiring about a potential renter’s sexual orientation or gender identity since the source of funding for these loans is from HUD.