

Fair Housing Laws

The Fair Housing Act, also known as *Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968*, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions. These protections are based on membership in a protected class, e.g. **race, color, national origin, ancestry (Ohio), religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), military status (Ohio), and disability.**

Various cities include additional protected classes in their local fair housing ordinances, such as source of income, sexual orientation and gender identity, among others.

The goals of the Fair Housing Act are to promote residential integration, eliminate housing discrimination, and to affirmatively further fair housing.

Fair Housing Laws protect against such illegal actions as denying a dwelling, refusing to rent or sell housing, making housing unavailable, setting different terms or conditions in housing, and/or refusing to make a mortgage loan based on a protected class. It is also illegal to discriminate in advertising and appraisal of properties. Further, it is illegal for anyone to interfere, coerce, or threaten someone exercising their fair housing rights.

If you'd like to report housing discrimination, please call us at (216) 361-9240 and ask to speak with an advocate.



The Fair Housing Center was established in 1983; growing from a grassroots organization to an innovative fair housing agency that strives to promote equal housing access and provides services to all protected class members in the region. By implementing best practices, the Fair Housing Center continues to be a respected resource for organizations, communities, and residents in Northeast Ohio.

Committed to fair housing for all.

Contact Us

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**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**



The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research's mission is to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination and promote integrated communities.



**No matter what,
fair housing is
your right.**

**If you've experienced
housing discrimination,
don't go through it alone.
We can help.**

Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research

The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research (Fair Housing Center) is a not-for-profit fair housing organization that works to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination and promote integrated communities.

We open doors to housing opportunities through three key initiatives:

1. Research

Our dedicated staff publishes research examining housing patterns in Northeast Ohio, impediments to fair housing, local occupancy codes, and issues of racial and ethnic disparities in mortgage lending. These publications explore the causes and effects of housing discrimination and recommend solutions to affirmatively further fair housing in Northeast Ohio. The Fair Housing Center's research publications serve as a resource for the community and are used by housing providers, local municipalities, academia, and other nonprofits throughout the country.

2. Education and Outreach

The Fair Housing Center strives to eliminate discrimination by providing fair housing education to members of the housing industry, including real estate professionals, housing counselors, municipal building departments, architects, landlords, property managers. The Fair Housing Center staff educate consumers and the general public about their fair housing rights through speaking engagements at faith-based organizations, schools, social service agencies, etc. as well as presence at neighborhood festivals and other community events.

The Fair Housing Center facilitates the Northeast Ohio Fair Housing Collaborative, a group of representatives from various organizations working to affirmatively further fair housing initiatives. These outreach efforts empower communities and individuals to exercise their civil rights and not tolerate discrimination in housing.

3. Advocacy

The Fair Housing Center enforces fair housing laws through monitoring and investigations of fair housing complaints in sales and rental housing, homeowner's insurance and mortgage lending markets. The agency advocates on behalf of those who experience discrimination through administrative complaints filed with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the courts. The Fair Housing Center is a member of the National Fair Housing Alliance and also works with a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals, who advocate for, enforce, and affect local, state, and national fair housing laws and policies.