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

- 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 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 Consortium
- Collaborate with national, state, and local organizations



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MEMBER OF GREATER CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SHARES

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.

Funding provided by
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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FAIR HOUSING

Know your rights!



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Housing discrimination continues in Northeast Ohio. People often don't report it because they don't know that fair housing is a civil right and that there is help available.

Who is Protected?

Everyone is protected by federal and state fair housing laws. They prohibit housing discrimination based on:

- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex
- Disability
- Religion
- Familial Status (the presence of children under the age of 18)
- Military Status

Some local laws also prohibit housing discrimination based on:

- Sexual Orientation
- Marital Status
- Creed
- Age
- Gender Identity
- Source of Income

Possible Signs of Discrimination

Comments like these can be signs of housing discrimination:

"Families with children can only live in the back of the complex."

"I will have to charge you a pet deposit for your guide dog."

"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 Children," or "Christians Only," or "Prefer single female."



"I didn't think housing discrimination could still happen to me."

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, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777 or online at www.hud.gov.

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

Committed to fair housing for all.