

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

(Formerly the Housing Research & Advocacy Center)

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OUR MISSION:

To protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities.

NEW BRAND, SAME PURPOSE.

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center is now the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research! The new brand identity, adopted in April 2018, more accurately reflects the organization as a fair housing agency, borne out of the passage of the Fair Housing Act 50 years ago on April 11th. The new name further signifies a commitment to protecting fair housing rights and to producing high-quality housing-related research.

“The Fair Housing Act is the foundation of this organization. Fifty years ago that historic legislation was signed into law prohibiting housing discrimination. That allowed for the creation of this agency and we felt it was time our name reflected that,” said CARLETON MOORE!, Board President for the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research.

“This new brand identity will uniquely position us to face modern challenges so we can continue fighting for housing justice for as long as it takes,” stated Carrie Pleasants, The Fair Housing Center’s Executive Director. Ms. Pleasants continues, “I am grateful for the engaged Board of Directors, incredible staff, and important community stakeholders who participated in the strategic planning process to get us to this new and exciting brand identity.”

The organization underwent a strategic plan to reevaluate the organization’s mission, name, and priorities. With generous funding from the William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation, the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research was able to align its priorities with an ever-challenging housing climate.

The Fair Housing Center had the great opportunity to work with strategic planning consultant Janus Small Associates to facilitate the plan, and Agnes Studio to oversee the rebranding and redesign the logo.



“This new brand identity will uniquely position us to face modern challenges so we can continue fighting for housing justice for as long as it takes.”

***- Carrie Pleasants,
Executive Director***

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research completed another busy year, in our continued effort to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities.

Over the past year, we continued to study housing voucher mobility patterns — this time in Lorain County — and investigated why housing voucher participants live where they do. In addition, we studied the prevalence of housing voucher discrimination in Cuyahoga County, and its relationship with race-based housing discrimination.

Our Enforcement team worked with hundreds of residents around Northeast Ohio to protect and advocate on behalf of their fair housing rights. From investigative measures to direct advocacy, we strove to resolve complaints of housing discrimination, and partnered with countless organizations to assist individuals in both obtaining and maintaining shelter.

Our Education & Outreach team worked to reach a broader audience and connect more people to our services. We continued to promote fair housing education to a wide variety of people through publications, social media, outreach events, and fair housing trainings.

The Fair Housing Center began our strategic planning and rebranding process, with the help of Agnes Studio and Janus Small Associates, in 2017. The work put into these processes has positioned our agency to increase our presence in the community and beyond, expanding our impact and, ultimately, empowering more individuals to understand and exercise their fair housing rights.

In times like these, your support is essential to fulfilling our mission and goals. Thank you for your continued financial contributions, your subscription to our newsletters, and your attendance at our events. With your support, we can eliminate housing discrimination and create healthy, inclusive communities!



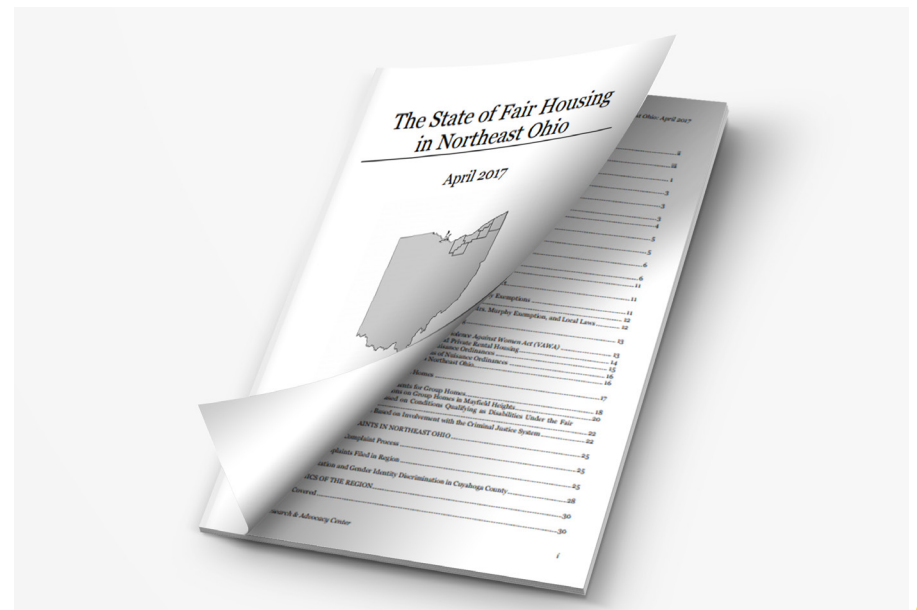
RESEARCH

The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research conducts recognized research on housing and lending patterns in Northeast Ohio. The Fair Housing Center released the 12th edition of the ***State of Fair Housing of Northeast Ohio***. This report illustrates regional patterns of segregation, analyzes fair housing complaints, and includes an outline of municipal fair housing ordinances throughout the region and identifies potential violations of fair housing law in local municipal laws.

The Fair Housing Center released ***Housing Voucher Mobility in Lorain County***, a report on the living patterns and experiences of participants of the Housing Choice Voucher Program in Cuyahoga County. The report shows that voucher program participants live in neighborhoods with limited educational opportunity, low health outcomes, high crime, and high exposure to environmental health hazards and includes a survey of hundreds of voucher program participants who reported that they want to live in neighborhoods with low crime and high performing school. Staff were invited to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's 2017 Ohio Housing Conference to speak about the findings of the report and other research. A similar report by the Fair Housing Center released in 2016, ***Housing Voucher Mobility in Cuyahoga County***, inspired a multi-part series featured on *Ideastream* in February of 2017.

The Fair Housing Center released *Housing Voucher Discrimination and Race Discrimination in Cuyahoga County*, a report that used systemic testing to estimate the prevalence of housing

discrimination against people using housing vouchers and the relationship between refusing to accept a housing choice voucher and race-based housing discrimination. The report found that landlords in Cuyahoga County reinforce racial segregation by refusing to accept a housing choice voucher outside of areas that already have concentrations of vouchers 91.2% of the time. The report also found that landlords who advertise that they do not accept housing choice vouchers are more likely to discriminate against renters on the basis of their race. The report was featured in the cover story of the February 28, 2018 issue of *Cleveland Scene* and cited in the summer of 2018 issue of *Shelterforce*. Staff were invited to present the report during the Ohio Fair Lending Coalition's 2018 Conference series.



ADVOCACY & ENFORCEMENT

15

new charges of housing discrimination filed with administrative agencies for investigation

19

agency cases resolved directly by the Fair Housing Center

27

new agency cases handled

32

ongoing agency cases

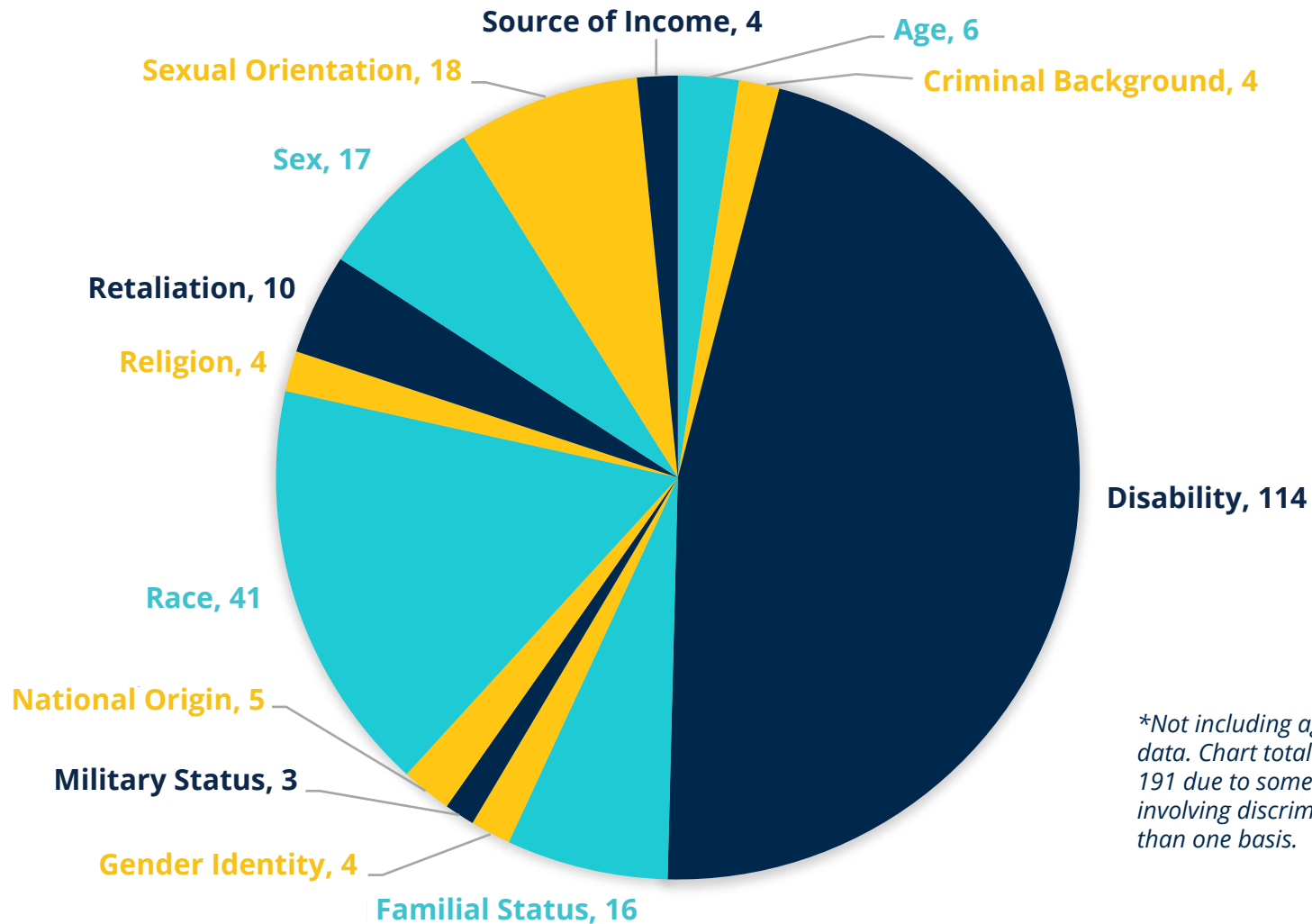
191

intakes conducted for complaints of housing discrimination from individuals in the community

Increasing community awareness and referrals from community partners have resulted in consistently high numbers of complaints in recent years.

ADVOCACY & ENFORCEMENT

BASES OF DISCRIMINATION REPORTED IN 2017



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

43

fair housing trainings conducted

1,535

people in attendance

60

hours of training conducted

1,402

total training
hours completed

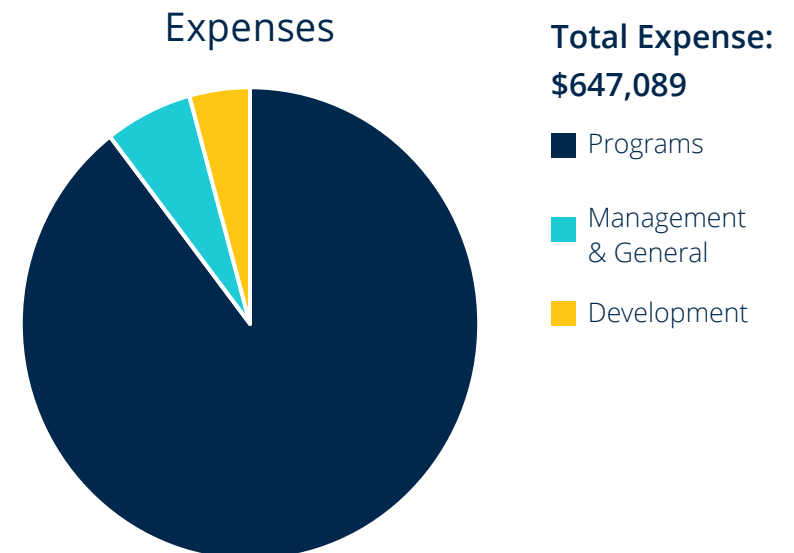
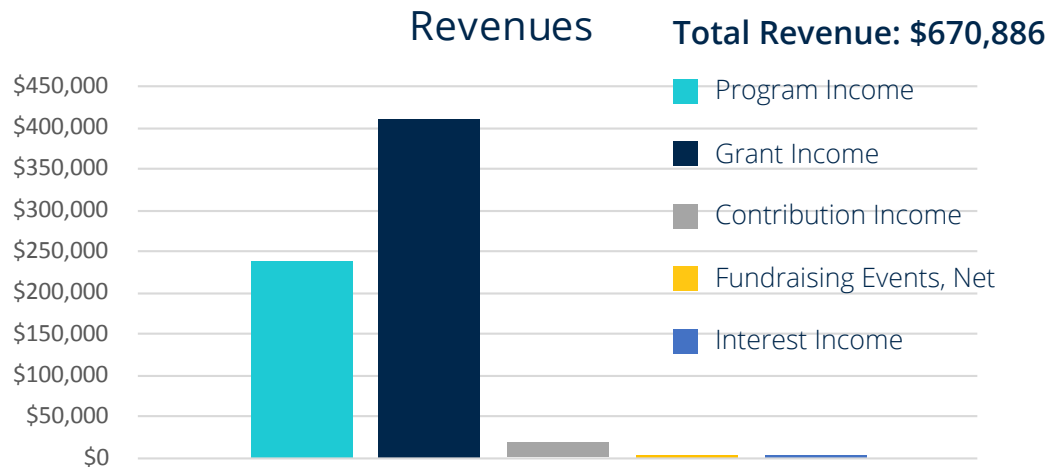


FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Grants & Contracts

The Fair Housing Center received funding from the following organizations in 2017:

- City of East Cleveland
- City of Euclid
- City of Lakewood
- City of Parma
- City of Shaker Heights
- Cleveland Foundation
- Cuyahoga County
- Fair Housing Resource Center
- Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Westfield Insurance Foundation



OUR TEAM

Darlene English, *Director of Education & Outreach*

Doris Honsa, *Fair Housing Community Educator*

Kris Keniray, *Associate Director*

Michael Lepley, *Senior Research Associate*

Lenore Mangiarelli, *Research Associate*

Liam McSweeney, *Enforcement Intern*

Carrie Pleasants, *Executive Director*

Peter Saudek, *Investigations Coordinator*

Delanté Spencer Thomas, *Senior Investigations Coordinator*

**Above information is current as of 12/31/17.*



NEW IN 2018:

Ellie Kilpatrick, *Enforcement Intern*

Emily Martin, *Communications & Outreach Specialist*

Liam McSweeney, *Investigations Coordinator*

Peter Saudek, *Senior Investigations Coordinator*

Angela Zmich, *Outreach Intern*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Bonham

Staff Attorney,
ACLU of Ohio

Katie Brickner

Director of Stewardship and Volunteer Programs,
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Andrea Bruno, Secretary

Housing Manager,
St. Clair Superior Development Corporation

Joan Burda

Attorney at Law

Jonathan L. Entin, Vice President

Past Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
School of Law David L. Brennan Professor of Law and
Professor of Political Science,
Case Western Reserve University

Vicktoria Kotov, Treasurer

Director of Lending,
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland

CARLETON MOORE!, President

Senior Vice President for Advance Planning,
CWM! Architects

Priscilla Pointer-Hicks

Executive Director,
Parma Public Housing Agency

Nolan Stevens

Director of Legal Services,
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center

J. Rosie Tighe

Assistant Professor of Urban Studies,
Maxine Goodman Levin College
of Urban Affairs

Directors Emeriti:

Patricia Burgess (*deceased*)

Gay Quereau

**Above information is current as of 12/31/17.*

STAY CONNECTED!



/thehousingcenter



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www.thehousingcenter.org

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION

We couldn't do our work without your support. Your contribution enables us to advocate on behalf of more people, ensuring they receive the necessary services to meet their needs. Please visit <https://bit.ly/2HIH0GG> to make your tax deductible donation today.

Thank you!



**Fair Housing Center
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