



**Fair Housing Center  
for Rights & Research**

## 2019 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

*Committed to fair housing for all*

### FAIR HOUSING CENTER RELEASES REPORT ON STATE OF FAIR HOUSING IN NORTHEAST OHIO

# 2019

## THE STATE OF FAIR HOUSING IN NORTHEAST OHIO



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**Housing discrimination persists in Northeast Ohio.** In 2018, there were 138 complaints of housing discrimination in Northeast Ohio that were filed with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with a 25-year average of 141.1 complaints filed. The Fair Housing Center estimates that there are at least 33,690 instances of housing discrimination annually in the region showing that the complaints filed represent only a small fraction of the total number of instances of housing discrimination in the region. Over the past five years (2014-2018), the most common bases of discrimination alleged in complaints were disability (37.9%), race (20.2%), and familial status (17.5%). The Fair Housing Center uncovered housing discrimination against the LGBTQ community in 34.1% of rental transactions and against survivors of domestic violence in 35.9% of rental transactions.

In the Cleveland-Elyria MSA in both 2016 and 2017, **African American borrowers were more than twice as likely to be denied a home-purchase loan** (20.1% for 2016, 18.4% for 2017) than white borrowers (7.5% and 6.9% respectively). In Cuyahoga County, some of the largest lenders have no branch presence in majority-minority census tracts and many lenders are making little-to-no effort to create or market products in majority-minority neighborhoods.

Housing segregation remained constant for African Americans since 1990, and **the region is ranked 5th most segregated for major metropolitan areas**. Affordable housing programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) are not expanding choice for low income people of color as voucher program participants and properties using the LIHTC program are clustered in areas with concentrated, racialized poverty. A study by The Fair Housing Center showed that landlords with units outside of areas with concentrations of voucher holders refuse to accept a voucher more than 90% of the time.

The report includes a review of municipal fair housing laws and local zoning codes. In Northeast Ohio, 60 municipalities have local fair housing ordinances, many of which expand protection beyond national and state laws. Forty-three municipalities have zoning ordinances that restrict or regulate group homes in ways that potentially violate the Fair Housing Act. Thirty-seven municipalities have criminal activity nuisance ordinances that have been shown to disproportionately target and often cause the eviction of people of color, victims of domestic violence, and people with disabilities.

This report was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The findings of this work are dedicated to the public. The authors and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Government.

*The Fair Housing Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities.*

**The report is available for free download [here](#).**

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



In June, we welcomed Ellie Kilpatrick into her new full-time role as Investigations Coordinator here at The Fair Housing Center. Ellie originally joined the team as Enforcement Intern in 2018, and is thrilled to now be working full-time at our agency. Ellie says that she is most excited about being able to conduct testing for our clients and our agency, and that she has been able to see how results from these tests can serve as compelling evidence in both client and agency fair housing complaints. She is excited to have another tool to assist in the fight for fair housing, and we are excited to welcome Ellie into her new role!



In March, we welcomed June Gradford onto our staff as Office Assistant for The Fair Housing Center. June comes to us through AARP's Senior Community Service Employment Program, and assists our agency in many ways, including answering all phone lines, directing incoming calls, and preparing materials for agency seminars and training events. When asked what she enjoys about working at The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research, June replied, "The staff. A great group of people. Very helpful." We appreciate June for all that she does!

## LOCAL ADVOCATES GATHER FOR REENTRY HOUSING WORKSHOP



Cuyahoga County celebrated the 2nd Annual Reentry Awareness Week from April 22 - 27, 2019 in an effort to raise public awareness of the barriers and challenges facing individuals returning home from incarceration. As part of the week, The Fair Housing Center joined the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and Enterprise Community Partners in sponsoring the workshop, **“Reentry: What to do About Denials to Housing Based on Criminal Backgrounds”** on Wednesday, April 24.

Social service providers, local advocates, restored citizens, and community members came together to discuss housing barriers faced by people with criminal convictions, listen as folks shared their lived experiences, and learn ways service providers and advocates can help to mitigate these barriers. During the workshop, strategies to assist justice-involved clients in obtaining housing and navigating barriers were discussed. The Fair Housing Center is proud to be able to provide a newly created resource to assist those denied housing based on criminal history. **Learn more and download it [here](#).**

We appreciate all who were a part of making the 2019 Reentry Awareness Week a success, and look forward to continuing to work alongside reentry advocates in Cuyahoga County to promote equal housing opportunities for all.

## FAIR HOUSING SYMPOSIUMS HOSTED IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY



This spring, The Fair Housing Center hosted two Fair Housing Symposiums in Cuyahoga County. Both symposiums focused on a variety of fair housing topics, including an overview of fair housing law and the history of housing discrimination; barriers faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, survivors of domestic violence and individuals with criminal backgrounds; and the impact of criminal activity nuisance ordinances on our communities.

We want to extend a huge thank you to our presenters and all who attended, as well as Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County for providing space for our symposiums to take place.

## ABOUT THE FAIR HOUSING CENTER FOR RIGHTS & RESEARCH

The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research (The Fair Housing Center) is a nonprofit fair housing organization whose mission is to protect and expand fair housing rights, eliminate housing discrimination, and promote integrated communities. The Fair Housing Center has been in existence for 35 years, beginning as the Metropolitan Strategy Group in 1983.

The federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination in the sale or rental of a dwelling on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability. The purpose of the law is to eliminate housing discrimination and promote residential integration.

For more information visit [www.thehousingcenter.org](http://www.thehousingcenter.org).

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