



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

2019 WINTER NEWSLETTER

Committed to fair housing for all

FAIR HOUSING CENTER UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE



The Fair Housing Center is excited to announce the launch of our brand new website. In addition to a fresh new look, the new site is mobile friendly and has been restructured to offer a better user experience and easier navigation for those looking to connect with the Fair Housing Center or learn more about our services.

Check out our new website now: www.thehousingcenter.org

HOUSING: OUR MOST BASIC NEED



HOUSING IS A BASIC NEED.

Housing is the foundation of our lives. Where we live affects the type of education we receive, job opportunities, resources, healthcare, and even life expectancy.

When you are denied access to housing due to discrimination, you are being denied a basic need.

Fair housing is a civil right afforded to everyone living in the United States. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 protects individuals from housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. Ohio law also prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of ancestry and military status. Additionally, Cuyahoga County protects the LGBTQ+ community in its anti-discrimination ordinance, and local municipalities have adopted various other fair housing protections.

“

Housing discrimination is denial of the most basic of needs for a human being, which is the place that provides shelter — for yourself, your children if you have them, or any other loved ones. It's evil. Pure evil.

”

– *Willie,*
Experienced Housing Discrimination



Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research



Our team works every day to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure everyone's most basic need of housing is fair and equitable. We educate consumers about their basic housing rights under fair housing law and advocate for additional protections. We research the ways in which our communities fail to affirmatively further fair housing. But this requires help from caring people like you. People who recognize the fundamental need for fair housing. People who understand we all deserve a place to call home. People who have the compassion to make a difference.

Can we count on your support this year to continue the fight for housing equality? In these critical times where basic needs are under attack, please consider giving this year, so that everyone can have a solid foundation and enjoy the housing of their choice.

GIVE NOW

HEAR THE VOICES OF FAIR HOUSING



Over the past month, we've shared the stories of those who have experienced housing discrimination, and who have been helped by fair housing law, through our "Voices of Fair Housing" video series.

But these are only a few stories of discrimination. Each year, more than [4 million acts](#) of housing discrimination still occur -- and many people are unaware that it happens at all.

Visit www.thehousingcenter.org/voices to hear all of the stories, and learn more about how housing discrimination is impacting our communities, and what the Fair Housing Center is doing to combat discrimination and expand civil rights.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, ALEX!



Earlier this month, we welcomed Alex Chavers to our team as our new Enforcement Intern. Alex assists the Enforcement Team with advertisement monitoring, client intake referrals, and fair housing-related research.

Alex earned his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Political Science, from American University in 2015. He

earned his Master's in Media & Strategic Communications from George Washington University in 2018. Prior to joining the Fair Housing Center, Alex interned at a number of local city halls, including Cleveland and Euclid. He has also worked for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, where he assisted a county-wide property assessment. Alex has worked with community groups at the ACLU of Ohio on issues pertaining to prison reform and police accountability, and recently had the opportunity to serve with them on a campaign panel for progressive, state-wide bail reform.

We are thrilled to have Alex on the Fair Housing Center team!

STAFF ATTEND NFHA'S FAIR HOUSING SCHOOL



In November, two of our staff members, Ellie Kilpatrick and Emily Martin, attended the National Fair Housing Alliance's Fair Housing School® in Pasadena, California.

The six-day course brought together professionals from fair housing agencies across the U.S. to learn about common fair housing issues and best practices. All Fair Housing Center employees take part in this training in order to serve our communities with the most accurate and up-to-date information and resources.

Congratulations, Ellie and Emily!

NFHA
National Fair Housing Alliance

COVERAGE OF SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES



With the exception of a handful of municipalities, in most of Cuyahoga County, it is currently legal for a landlord to reject a tenant based solely on their “source of income”, which simply means that the tenant plans to use a voucher to help pay their rent. The Fair Housing Center has been a strong advocate for widespread source of income protections

in order to allow everyone to have equal access to the housing of their choice, regardless of how they pay. Research from our 2017 report on [Housing Voucher Discrimination and Race Discrimination in Cuyahoga County](#) suggests that, refusal to take a voucher often serves as a proxy for race-based discrimination, and that racial segregation is perpetuated by limited housing choices.

Recently, The Plain Dealer has been shedding light on the barriers housing voucher holders face when searching for housing. Journalist Jordyn Grzelewski’s recent “Closed Doors” series highlights issues related to source of income discrimination in Cuyahoga County, while telling the stories of voucher holders who have experienced challenges in accessing the housing of their choice.

Check out the articles in the series now:

- [‘It made me feel helpless’: Voucher holders share stories of limited options, stigma - Closed Doors](#)
- [Closed Doors: Lakewood among booming housing markets where low-income renters are pushed out](#)
- [Closed Doors: CMHA works to improve voucher program; advocates push for discrimination protections](#)

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 over 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.

STAY IN THE LOOP!

Sign up for our e-newsletter and never miss the latest in local and national fair housing news. Visit www.thehousingcenter.org/sign-up.



[/thehousingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/thehousingcenter)



[@thehousingcenter](https://www.instagram.com/thehousingcenter)



[@housingcenter](https://twitter.com/housingcenter)



**Fair Housing Center
for Rights & Research**

www.thehousingcenter.org

2728 Euclid Ave., Ste. 200

Cleveland, OH 44115

(216) 361-9240