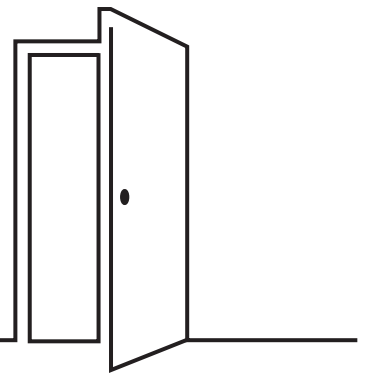


# FAIR HOUSING MAY UNLOCK THE DOOR TO YOUR NEW HOME!

Fair housing laws protect us from discrimination, both where we live and where we want to live. As you are searching for housing, it is important for you to understand your rights, and, if a problem arises, to know where to turn for help. The Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research can provide free information and assistance.



**It's illegal for a landlord to treat you differently or deny you housing because of your "protected characteristics", which include:**

- Race/Color
- National Origin/Ancestry
- Sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Disability
- Religion
- Familial Status (Includes those who are pregnant or have children under 18 years old)
- Military Status

## **Additional Protections for Families with Vouchers**

Many cities in Cuyahoga County offer additional protections, including marital status, age, and source of income. Source of income protections prohibit discrimination against families with vouchers. Linndale, South Euclid, University Heights, Cleveland Heights, and Warrensville Heights are among the Cuyahoga County cities\* that have outlawed source of income discrimination.

**Because of your protected characteristic, it is illegal for a housing provider to:**

- Refuse to rent, sell, or negotiate for housing
- Make housing unavailable or 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 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
- Discriminate in mortgage lending

## **Examples of Discrimination:**

- Restricting families with children to the first floor units, or specific buildings
- Refusing to rent to people with children under a certain age or stating a limit on the number of children in a household
- Saying "No Section 8" where prohibited by local law
- Not responding to people of certain races when they inquire about renting, while responding to others
- Saying a unit is rented when it is available
- Refusing to permit or charging a pet deposit for a service or assistance animal
- Refusing to rent to you because of your gender identity or sexual orientation
- Refusing to rent to people who are not U.S. citizens
- Having a rental policy that automatically denies anyone with a felony conviction
- Refusing to rent to someone because of their faith

## **GET HELP**

If you experience housing discrimination, contact the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research for information and assistance.

 (216) 361-9240

 [advocates@thehousingcenter.org](mailto:advocates@thehousingcenter.org)



**Fair Housing Center  
for Rights & Research**

*\*The cities listed above prohibit source of income discrimination as of May 2021. Please contact us for a current list as additional cities may provide this protection.*