

FAIR HOUSING FOR OREGON'S JURISDICTIONS



Fair Housing Basics

·This information is for public officials including council members, planners, city staff, and other jurisdictional stakeholders who seek to understand their role in land responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

·Fair housing laws help identify which issues can be legally addressed when community concerns arise, and which infringe upon the rights of others not yet living in the neighborhood or community. The law helps to achieve a balance between existing neighbors' concerns and the right of all people to access a range of housing options and not be discriminated against.

·The federal Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against people seeking to obtain housing. A wide range of housing related activities are covered by fair housing law including renting, selling, lending, zoning and providing insurance.

Public officials need to be aware of their specific Fair Housing responsibilities.

Protected Classes

It is illegal to deny people housing based on their membership in a protected class . . .

FEDERAL

- Race
- Color
- National origin
- Religion
- Gender
- Familial Status
- Disability

STATE of OREGON

- Marital Status
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Source of Income

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FAIR HOUSING IS YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

- You have a legal responsibility to follow the Fair Housing Act in zoning, planning, and other jurisdictional decision-making processes.
- Fair Housing also provides a helpful framework to ensure housing access to members of your community.



Veterans, seniors, and many other groups benefit from the impact of Fair Housing because it increases housing access and options.

COMMON JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO FAIR HOUSING LAW:

- How elected and city officials handle discriminatory public comments and pushback against housing for protected class residents in a community.
- Where varied types of housing and shelters are allowed to be built and how affordable housing is disbursed throughout a community.
- How many people are allowed to live in new construction, what materials must be used in the building, and the accessibility of new residential structures.

FHCO CAN OFFER A VARIETY OF SUPPORTS TO JURISDICTIONS INCLUDING:

- Fair Housing trainings to council members, staff, and community stakeholders.
- Written guides and materials on a variety of relevant topics including zoning, land use planning, housing development, design and construction, and others.
- Work that satisfies AFFH requirements for jurisdictions receiving CDBG funds.
- Providing support to your constituents, both those experiencing housing discrimination, as well as to housing providers needing information and training on their responsibilities.



CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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