Fair Housing – It's the Law

It is important to understand the basic rights provided to you under the *fair housing laws*. The premise of fair housing law is simple: everyone has the legal right to live anywhere they want (and can afford) to live. Fair housing law applies to both individuals and families whether they are Voucher Holders or paying market rates.

The Federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, ancestry, familial status, disability, gender identity, military discharge status, or source of income.

Fair housing does *not* mean that Property Owners are required to rent to anyone who comes through the door. Property Owners have the right to screen applicants, based on legal guidelines and procedures. The screening process will vary from Owner to Owner. Some will just look you in the eye, talk to you, and make a decision. Other Property Owners will require you to undergo a formal screening policy that may include:

- Checking credit history and references
- Conducting criminal background checks
- Reviewing previous rental history
- Filling out a thorough application form

Fair housing requires a Property Owner to treat all applicants the same. For example, if a Property Owner conducts home visits as part of their screening process, then home visits must be conducted for *every* applicant. If the screening uncovers information that indicates that you may not pay the rent on time or that you may damage the property, then the Property Owner does not have to accept you as a tenant. On the other hand, if you meet the Property Owner's criteria, he/she must accept you — whether or not you are a Voucher Holder.

Fair housing is your legal right. If you are denied your housing rights, you may be experiencing housing discrimination.

Under the Fair Housing Act, it is against the law for landlords to:

- Refuse to rent housing to you if you are a qualified applicant
- Tell you housing is not available when it is available
- Show you apartments or homes in certain neighborhoods only
- Advertise housing to preferred groups of people only
- Deny you property insurance
- Refuse to make certain modifications or accommodations for persons with a mental or physical disability, including persons recovering from alcohol and substance abuse and HIV/AIDS-related illnesses
- Harass, coerce, intimidate, or interfere with anyone exercising or assisting someone else with fair housing rights

To report housing discrimination or to learn more about it, call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at (800) 496-4294. You may also file a complaint on line at https://www5.hud.gov/Hud903/main/pagHUD903Form.jsp.

You can also file a complaint in writing to:

New York/New Jersey Fair Housing Hub U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development 26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532 New York, NY 10278-0068 (212) 264-1290 or (800) 496-4294 Fax (212)264-9829 TTY (212) 264 0927



NON PROFIT HOUSING AGENCIES

A -HOME 141 TOMPKINS AVE 3RD FLOOR PLEASANTVILLE NY 10570 914-741-0740 FAX: 914-741-0777 www.a-homehousing.org

AMERICAN RED CROSS

106 NORTH BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS NY 10603 914-946-6500

www.redcross.org

BLUE MOUNTAIN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORP

C/O TOWN OF BEDFORD 321 BEDFORD RD BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507 914-666-6530 FAX: 914-666-5249

THE BRIDGE FUND OF WESTCHESTER

171 EAST POST RD, SUITE 200 WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-949-8146 FAX: 914-949-1162

ENHANCED SECTION 8 OUTREACH OFFICE (ESOP)

20 So. Broadway, Ste. 1102 Yonkers, NY 10701 Tel. (914) 964-5519 Fax (914) 964-6619

COMMUNITY HOUSING INNOVATIONS INC

190 EAST POST RD, RM 401 WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-683-1010 FAX: 683-6158 www.communityhousing.org

CROTON HOUSING NETWORK

132 OLD POST RD NORTH CROTON-ON-HUDSON, NY 10520 914-271-9464 FAX: 914-2712184 www.crotonhousing.org

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

156-2 NORTH DIVISION ST PEEKSKILL NY 10566 914-739-0411 FAX: 914739-6421



FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER

1 SUMMIT AVE WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-948-8004 FAX: 914-948-0299 www.fsw.org

GREYSTONE FOUNDATION

21 PARK AVENUE YONKERS NY 10703 914-376-3900 FAX: 914-376-1333 www.grevston.org

HOUSING ACTION COUNCIL

55 SOUTH BROADWAY TARRYTOWN NY 10591 914-332-4144 FAX: 914-332-4147

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER

930 MAMARONECK AVE

MAMARONECK NY 10543 914-835-8906 FAX: 914-835-8905 <u>www.hdsw.org</u>

IFCA (INTERFAITH COUNCIL FOR ACTION)

PO BOX 790 138 SPRING ST OSSINING, NY 10562 914-941-5252 FAX: 914-941-7392 www.ifcany.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER

WHITE PLAINS MALL 200 HAMILTON AVE WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-949-0507 FAX: 914-997-9354 Email: LWVwestchester@verizon.org

MOUNT VERNON UNITED TENANTS

(MT VERNON ONLY PROGRAM) 2 GRAMATAN AVE, RM 312 MT VERNON NY 10551 914-699-1114 FAX: 914-699-7449

www.mvut.org

NEW ROCHELLE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION CORP



400 NORTH AVENUE NEW ROCHELLE NY 10801 914-633-7092 FAX: 914-699-7449

NORTH YONKERS PRESERVATION CORP

219 RIDGE AVENUE YONKERS NY 10703 914-423-9754 FAX: 914-423-8184

RYE INTERFAITH HOUSING CORP (RYE MANOR)

155 OAKLAND BEACH AVE RYE NY 10580 914-967-5023

THE SHARING COMMUNITY

1 HUDSON ST YONKERS NY 10702 914-963-2626 FAX: 914-964-5286

www.thesharingcommunity.org

SHORE (SHELTERING THE HOMELESS IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY)

55 SOUTH BROADWAY TARRYTOWN NY 10591 914-332-8801 OR 914-328-1896 FAX: 914-332-4147

www.shelteringthehomeless.org

WASHINGTONVILLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

136 LIBRARY LANE MAMARONECK NY 10543 914-698-4299 FAX: 914-698-7158 www.washingtonville.org

WESTCHESTER COALITION FOR THE HUNGRY & HOMELESS INC

48 MAMARONECK AVE, SUITE 35-37 WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-682-2737 FAX: 914-682-2739 www.foodclothingshelter.org

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

2269 SAW MILL RIVER RD, BLDG 3 ELMSFORD NY 10523 914-592-5600 FAX: 914-592-0021 www.westcop.org

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCS

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES 1 NORTH BROADWAY, SUITE 512 WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-761-3707 FAX: 914-761-9402 www.wcbany.org



WESTCHESTER DISABLED ON THE MOVE

984 NORTH BROADWAY, SUITE LL-10 YONKERS NY 10701 914-968-4717 FAX: 914-968-6137 www.wdom.org

WESTCHESTER HISPANIC COALITION

46 WALLER AVENUE WHITE PLAINS NY 10605 914-948-8466 FAX: 914-948-0311 www.hispaniccoalition.org

COMMUNITY CAPITAL RESOURCES

7 WEST CROSS ST HAWTHORNE NY 10532 914-747-8020 FAX: 914-747-2049 www.ccrhv.org

WESTCHESTER INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

200 HAMILTON AVE, 2ND FLOOR WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-682-3926 FAX: 914-682-8518 www.wilc.org

WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

545 NORTH BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS NY 10603 914-761-0600 www.wics.com

CLUSTER COMMUNITY SERVICES

20 SOUTH BROADWAY, SUITE 501 YONKERS NY 10701 914-963-6440 FAX: 914-963-4566 www.clusterinc.org

LEGAL SERVICES OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

90 MAPLE AVE WHITE PLAINS NY 10601 914-949-1305 914-949-6213 www.lshy.org

WESTCHESTER RESIDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES INC

470 MAMARONECK AVE, SUITE 410 WHITE PLAINS NY 10605 914-428-4507 FAX: 914-428-9455 www.wroinc.org



WESTHAB, INC. NON PROFIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT 85 EXECUTIVE BLVD ELMSFORD NY 10523 914-345-2800 FAX: 914-345-3139 www.westhab.org

YMCA (OF TARRYTOWN)

62 MAIN ST TARRYTOWN NY 10591 914-631-4087

YMCA (OF PORT CHESTER)

400 WESTCHESTER AVE PORT CHESTER NY 10573 914-939-7800

YMCA (OF WHITE PLAINS)

250 MAMARONECK AVE WHITE PLAINS NY 10605 914-949-8030

www.ymca-cnw.org

YWCA (OF WHITE PLAINS)

515 NORTH STREET WHITE PLAINS NY 10605 914-949-6227 www.vwcawhiteplains.com

NYS DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Office of General Services 8 John Walsh Boulevard, Suite 204 Peekskill, NY 10566 Tel. (914) 788-8050

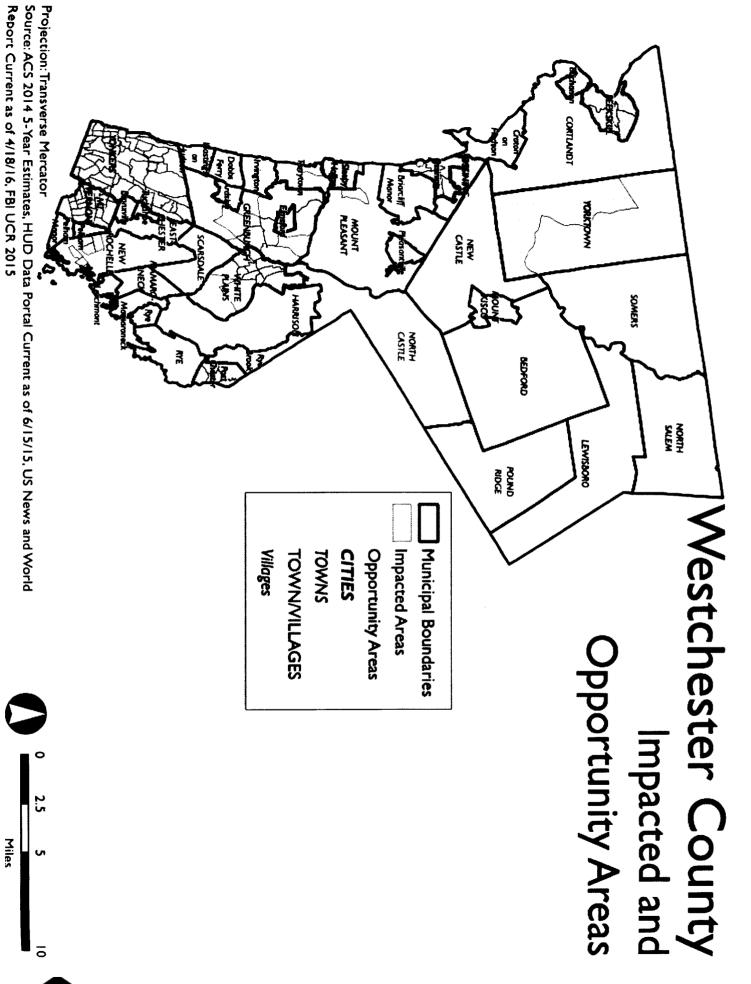
HUD Housing Discrimination Hotline

Call toll free at (800) 669-9777

This information can also be accessed for the hearing impaired via TTY at (800) 927-9275

and/or by calling the Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) at (800) 877-8339





EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY