



Current FHJC Policy Priorities

The mission of the **Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC)**, a regional civil rights organization, is to eliminate housing discrimination; promote policies and program that foster open, accessible, and inclusive communities; and strengthen enforcement of fair housing laws in the New York City region. The FHJC Policy Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors and works with staff to establish and advance policy priorities. The FHJC has adopted a public policy agenda that is guided by the following goals and priorities:

The FHJC will strongly support and advocate for local, state, and federal policies and programs that:

GOAL #1: *Work to ensure that all people, including populations whose housing choices have historically been restricted or are currently limited, are better able to access and enjoy the full range of housing opportunities and communities that exist in the region. Place matters. Expanding housing choice can increase access to opportunities, reduce inequalities, and enable people to enjoy the social, professional, and economic benefits of integrated living.*

2017-18 Priorities

1. Build community support for the development of a regional housing mobility counseling program that can assist lower-income individuals and families with rental subsidies currently residing in high-poverty neighborhoods who want access to housing opportunities in communities that may offer higher-performing schools, better services and amenities, employment opportunities, etc.
2. Support public policy initiatives that link fair housing enforcement and/or housing mobility activities to efforts that reduce inequalities in other areas of community life by integrating schools, increasing access to employment opportunities, promoting home ownership, etc.
3. Examine State policies and regulations governing adult homes, assisted living programs, and group homes to ensure that they do not limit access to housing opportunities by people with disabilities.

GOAL #2: *Reduce residential racial segregation, promote equitable development including in communities that have been historically disinvested or continue to be deprived of resources, amenities, benefits, and/or services, and foster the creation of more open, accessible, and inclusive communities. Residential segregation, concentrated poverty, and housing discrimination contributes to increased*



homelessness, fuels gentrification and displacement, and nourishes a host of other harmful social, educational, and economic inequalities. Efforts to affirmatively further fair housing should be aimed at dismantling barriers to housing choice, promoting residential integration, and repairing the harm that has been and continues to be inflicted on people and communities of color.

2017-18 Priorities

1. Support and monitor HUD efforts to ensure that local and state jurisdictions are taking substantive action to affirmatively further fair housing.
2. Provide staff support to and coordinate the state-wide network of fair housing organizations to act on issues of mutual interest and concern, including, but not limited to, advocating for:
 - a. Changes to the Qualified Allocation Plans used by the two (2) state tax credit allocation agencies to reduce residential segregation and poverty concentration while expanding the supply of mixed income and affordable housing opportunities in higher opportunity areas.
 - b. Changes to the State Human Rights Law (see Goal 3, #1-3).
 - c. Enactment of a state law that would mandate state agencies and local jurisdictions take specific steps to affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Provide staff to support to and coordinate The Board's Policy Committee to act on FHJC concerns at the city level, including, but not limited to advocating for:
 - a. Changes to the Qualified Allocation Plan used by the NYC tax credit allocation agency to reduce residential segregation and poverty concentration while expanding the supply of mixed income and affordable housing opportunities in higher opportunity neighborhoods.
 - b. Enactment of a New York City law that codifies the Assessment of Fair Housing into local law to ensure the City affirmatively furthers fair housing.
 - c. Enactment of a co-op disclosure law which protects prospective buyers who want to purchase co-ops within New York City.
 - d. Changes to the City's Human Rights Laws (see Goal 3, #3).
4. Convene a regional policy roundtable of affordable housing and fair housing advocates to explore issues and opportunities for collaboration that could expand



housing choice and reduce residential segregation and inequality in NYC and throughout the NYC region.

5. Advocate for policies that promote development of mixed-income and affordable housing opportunities in low-poverty and higher opportunity communities.
6. Advocate for greater coordination between local and state governments to ensure that newly constructed multi-family housing developments comply with local, state, and federal accessibility requirements.

GOAL #3: *Ensure that populations facing housing discrimination are adequately protected and that fair housing laws are vigorously enforced. The current passive, largely complaint-responsive, and under-resourced approach to government enforcement fails to document subtle and systemic forms of housing discrimination and leaves some of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations unprotected. A more pro-active, systemic, and well-resourced enforcement approach, with testing as the centerpiece, can more effectively document and eliminate discriminatory housing practices and achieve greater compliance with fair housing laws.*

2017-18 Priorities

1. Amend the New York State Human Rights Law to make explicit that vicarious liability is applied in housing discrimination cases filed under this law.
2. Amend the New York State Human Rights Law to include lawful source of income as a protected characteristic that applies to all housing accommodations currently covered by the law.
3. Amend the New York State and New York City Human Rights Laws to include record of arrest or conviction as a protected characteristic that applies to all housing accommodations currently covered by these laws.