

SUPPORT

The Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC)

We all have a responsibility to make sure that housing in our community is open and equally available to everyone.

There are many ways that you can support the FHJC's work. First, if you encounter or learn about discriminatory housing practices, please report them to us. You can also help us advocate for fair housing policies, host presentations on fair housing, volunteer your time to help with events and fundraisers, and donate to the FHJC. Our effectiveness continues to depend on the support and involvement of our testers, cooperating attorneys, partnering organizations, volunteers, and donors.

Give to the FHJC today! With your help, we can continue to fight housing discrimination and make communities within the New York City region more open, accessible, and inclusive.

Support the FHJC

Visit www.fairhousingjustice.org/give to donate today.
The Fair Housing Justice Center is a 510(c)(3) non-profit tax exempt organization.

©The Fair Housing Justice Center, Inc.
30-30 Northern Blvd., Suite 302
Long Island City, New York 11101
P: (212) 400-8201
www.fairhousingjustice.org



About The Fair Housing Justice Center

The Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC), a regional civil rights organization, is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination; promoting policies and programs that foster open, accessible, and inclusive communities; and strengthening enforcement of fair housing laws. The FHJC serves all five boroughs of New York City and the seven surrounding New York counties of Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "For as long as there is residential segregation, there will be a de facto segregation in every area of life. So the challenge is here to develop an action program." The FHJC operates an action program to systematically eliminate housing discrimination in the New York City region.

The Fair Housing Justice Center:

- ▶ Assists individuals and organizations with housing discrimination complaints and to exercise their fair housing rights
- ▶ Initiates investigations to identify, document, and eliminate systemic housing discrimination
- ▶ Advocates for policies and programs that promote the development of more open, accessible, and inclusive communities
- ▶ Engages in outreach and educational activities to increase public awareness about fair housing rights
- ▶ Provides technical assistance, training, and other tools to upgrade and strengthen fair housing law enforcement

Fair Housing in New York

Housing discrimination harms individuals, families, and entire communities. Discriminatory housing practices limit housing choice and perpetuate residential segregation. Residential segregation produces and sustains some of the most pernicious social and economic inequalities by:

- ▶ Impeding access to employment and educational opportunities, safe and healthy neighborhoods, as well as other benefits and amenities;
- ▶ Contributing to homelessness, neighborhood disinvestment, gentrification, and concentrated poverty;
- ▶ Sustaining racial disparities in homeownership and personal wealth; and
- ▶ Nourishing stereotypes, fears, and prejudices that fuel perceptions that certain housing or areas are not open or welcoming places to live.

The New York City region has one of the most diverse populations in the United States. However, pervasive housing discrimination continues to reinforce patterns of residential segregation. New York City is the third most segregated city for African Americans and the second most segregated city for Latinos and Asian Americans in the United States.



Creating a better future will require that we embrace and implement policies that reduce racial isolation and concentrated poverty. It also requires that we vigorously enforce fair housing laws to ensure that our housing market is open, accessible, and equally available to all. It means that all New Yorkers must have access to greater opportunity.

Housing Discrimination Complaints

The Fair Housing Justice Center assists individuals and organizations with allegations of illegal housing discrimination. Our intake personnel can help sort out the facts, interview witnesses, review documents, and counsel individuals on their rights and options under fair housing laws.

In some instances, the FHJC may be able to gather additional information by conducting a “testing” investigation. By sending out trained testers who pose as prospective buyers or renters, the FHJC is often able to collect evidence that enables victims of discrimination to meet their burden of proof and prevail with their complaints. The FHJC can also assist with referrals to government enforcement agencies and to cooperating attorneys on a case-by-case basis.

Contact the FHJC for help with housing discrimination. The FHJC’s counseling and investigative services are provided to the general public free of charge and without regard to household income.



FAIR HOUSING JUSTICE CENTER
30-30 Northern Blvd., Suite 2300
Long Island City, New York 11101
P: (212) 400-8201
E: fhjc@fairhousingjustice.org
www.fairhousingjustice.org

Language interpretation services are available.

Fair Housing Testing Investigations

Housing discrimination can be very subtle and difficult to detect. Therefore, the FHJC has adopted a pro-active approach to identify, document, and eliminate systemic housing discrimination. Testing remains one of the most effective investigative tools used to enforce fair housing laws. Our **Acting for Justice** testing program hires professional actors as “testers” to pose as ordinary home seekers to determine if housing providers and others are complying with fair housing laws.

The FHJC investigations have resulted in more vigorous enforcement of fair housing laws, opening up housing opportunities, changing housing practices, and recovering millions in damages and penalties. The FHJC works to achieve greater compliance with fair housing laws and to ensure that everyone can effectively exercise their fair housing rights.

Fair Housing Policy Initiatives

The FHJC advocates for programs and policies that foster more open, accessible, and inclusive communities. To counteract the effects of past and current discriminatory housing practices and to break the cycle of inequality that persists in our region, housing policies and programs must be explicitly tailored to increase housing choice, reduce residential segregation, and expand opportunities for all.



Education and Outreach

People are better equipped to exercise their fair housing rights when they are better informed. The FHJC engages in numerous outreach and educational activities to increase public awareness about fair housing rights. The FHJC offers presentations on fair housing for civic, religious, educational, and community organizations; distributes the **Opening Acts** e-newsletter about our work; issues reports and other publications on fair housing; and leads workshops on specific fair housing issues. We also produced an award winning documentary, **A Matter of Place**, and have been featured on NPR’s **This American Life** and in the EPIX docu-series **America Divided**.



Training and Technical Assistance

The FHJC contracts to provide technical assistance, testing services, training, and other tools to upgrade and strengthen fair housing enforcement. The FHJC provides support and other resources to organizations and agencies involved in fair housing enforcement to:

- ▶ Expand the use of testing as an investigative tool to gather evidence in response to housing discrimination complaints;
- ▶ Elevate systemic testing as the highest priority in fair housing law enforcement;
- ▶ Promote a more creative, strategic, and effective use of testing; and
- ▶ Advocate for vigorous, coordinated, and sustained fair housing enforcement in all of our nation’s metropolitan regions.

Our History and Impact

In twelve years, the Fair Housing Justice Center has established itself as a leader in fair housing. In 2005, the FHJC opened its doors as a program of a larger non-profit organization, HELP USA. By 2009, after incubating the new organization, the FHJC began operating as an independent, nonprofit civil rights organization, governed its own volunteer Board of Directors.

Since our founding, the FHJC’s investigations have led to legal challenges that have changed the way many housing providers do business; opened up tens of thousands of housing opportunities to populations previously excluded; and recovered millions in damages and penalties for victims of housing discrimination. The FHJC has influenced local, state, and federal housing policies; increased public awareness about fair housing rights; and improved how fair housing laws are enforced. The FHJC has changed lives by empowering people to exercise their fair housing rights.

