

hud NEWS

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FOR RELEASE

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NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AWARDED \$99,976 GRANT TO HELP FIGHT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

MORGANTOWN – The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living today received a grant of \$99,976 to conduct fair housing education and outreach in West Virginia. NWVCIL is the first organization in the state to be awarded a Fair Housing Initiatives Program grant. NWVCIL was selected by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which awarded 88 grants totaling \$17.1 million to recipients in 37 states and the District of Columbia to help fight housing discrimination.

"Last year there were a record 10,328 housing discrimination complaints filed with HUD and its state and local partners," said Kim Kendrick, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "These grants will allow us to continue with efforts to educate the public and the housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act."

NWVCIL will use its grant monies to partner with local human rights commissions to conduct fair housing workshops, author fair housing articles in organizational newsletters, and launch a statewide fair housing media campaign. In addition, NWVCIL will conduct research on housing discrimination against persons with disabilities, collect data on the availability of accessible housing in West Virginia, and assist alleged victims of discrimination with filing complaints with HUD.

The grants, funded through HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program, will be used to investigate allegations of housing discrimination, educate the public and the housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, and work to promote equal housing opportunities.

This year's grants were awarded under one of two initiatives:

- **Private Enforcement Initiative grants (PEI)** - HUD awarded \$14 million to help groups investigate alleged housing discrimination, and enforce the Fair Housing Act and state and local laws that are substantially equivalent to the Act.
- **Education and Outreach Initiative grants (EOI)** - HUD awarded \$3.1 million to groups that educate the public and housing providers about their rights and obligations under federal, state, and local fair housing laws.

FHEO and its partners in the Fair Housing Assistance Program investigate approximately 10,000 housing discrimination complaints annually. People who believe they are the victims of housing discrimination should contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 (voice), 800-927-9275 (TTY). Additional information is available at www.hud.gov/fairhousing. Stay on top of the most up-to-date news regarding the Fair Housing Act by signing up for the FHEO RSS Feed at www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm. A list of all the grant recipients is available on the [HUD website](#).