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### ***Our Mission***

*To create equal housing opportunities for all persons in America by administering laws that prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status.*

## **Welcome to Fair Housing News**

From the Assistant Secretary:

This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the federal law that prohibits discrimination in housing. As we celebrate the fair housing successes of the past 35 years, we continue to develop ways to effectively meet the challenges we face today.

One of the ways we are meeting the challenges is through education and outreach. That is why I am particularly proud to introduce the first issue of *Fair Housing News*, a new quarterly newsletter produced by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO).

Each issue of *Fair Housing News* will feature information about HUD's efforts to fight housing discrimination through education and outreach, enforcement

activities, new initiatives, and the activities of HUD-funded state and local fair housing groups.

The newsletter also will report on HUD-funded fair housing studies and research projects, describe HUD efforts to make the public more aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, list upcoming conferences, and special events.

As HUD's assistant secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, I am committed to diligently enforcing civil rights and fair housing laws. We will achieve our 2003 goals by conducting timely investigations; reducing impediments to housing choice; and supporting new initiatives to build public awareness and understanding of federal fair housing laws. Our efforts will be enhanced through the establishment of close



**Assistant Secretary  
Carolyn Y. Peoples**

working partnerships with faith-based and grassroots organizations, local government and other agencies to ensure effective program compliance and develop performance-based measures to ensure quality.

It is our hope *that Fair Housing News* will provide you with timely and relevant news to help you become more aware of our challenges, and the work we are doing to further our mission.

## **FHEO Responds to Landlords and Tenants Following the Sept. 11 Attacks**

On January 6, 2003, HUD issued written guidance addressing one of the most pressing concerns of landlords and tenants since the events of September 11, 2001.

Sparked by an FBI warning that apartment buildings may be used for or be the targets of terrorist activity, the

housing industry sought guidance from HUD on how to implement stricter security procedures without violating the Fair Housing Act. At the same time, fair housing advocates expressed concerns about increased housing discrimination against persons who are or are perceived to be Muslim or of

Middle Eastern or South Asian descent. HUD's recent guidance responds to the most common questions surrounding these concerns emphasizing that all new measures must be applied equally to all persons. The complete guidance is available at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).

## Fair Housing News

### HUD Launches Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST

On January 22, 2003, at the National Association of Home Builders International Builders Show in Las Vegas, HUD launched Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST, its most extensive and interactive housing accessibility training program to date.

HUD and contractor BearingPoint developed this comprehensive training curriculum on the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act to assist architects, builders, disability advocates and others with understanding how to design and construct multifamily housing that complies with the Act. The curriculum consists of nine modules, covering the requirements of the Fair Housing Act and specific aspects of accessible design. These modules will be presented in

The seven Fair Housing Act design and construction requirements are:

- Accessible entrance on an accessible route
- Accessible public and common-use areas
- Doors useable by persons in wheelchairs
- Accessible route into and through the dwelling unit
- Accessible light switches, outlets, and thermostats
- Reinforced bathroom walls to allow for the installation of grab bars
- Kitchens and bathrooms that are useable by persons in wheelchairs

various combinations at 46 training events throughout the country over the next 18 months.

Carmel Hopkins of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* called the inaugural training in Las Vegas, “the single best seminar it has been my pleasure to attend,” and stated, “The whole concept was presented by bright, articulate people who didn’t talk federalese; their talks were accompanied by printed material that reinforced their topics.”

For more information on the training schedule, continuing education credits and other information and guidance on the design and construction requirements of the Act, go to [www.fairhousingfirst.org](http://www.fairhousingfirst.org) or call toll free 1-888-341-7781 (V/TTY) Monday through Friday 9am-5pm Eastern Time.

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### Housing Discrimination Study

In November 2002, HUD released a nationwide study of housing discrimination against blacks and Hispanics. Conducted by the Urban Institute, Housing Discrimination Study (HDS 2000), the first in a four-phase study, provides a national estimate of the level of discrimination against blacks and Hispanics in the rental and sales markets in 2000.

HDS 2000 shows that while the incidence of discrimination against blacks and Hispanics has declined significantly since HUD’s 1989 study, discrimination faced in 2000 is still high.

From 1989 to 2000, the incidence of discrimination against blacks and Hispanics in the sales market declined from 29 percent to 17 percent and 26.8 percent to 19.7 percent, respectively.

Although black homebuyers are likely to receive more favorable treatment on housing availability and inspection since the 1989 testing, they are more likely to be steered toward predominately black neighborhoods than white homebuyers. In the rental market, there was a slight decrease from 26.4 percent in 1989 to 21.6 percent in 2000 in discrimination against blacks. For Hispanics, the chance of experiencing discrimination in the rental market is 25 percent, a rate that has remained virtually unchanged from 1989 to 2000.

These results are based on 4,600 “matched-pair” tests conducted in 23 metropolitan housing markets. “Matched-pair” tests consist of two persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds (white/black and non-Hispanic white/Hispanic) of equal qualifications visiting housing

providers to inquire about housing availability and noting any differences in treatment.

HUD will be conducting the three additional phases of this housing discrimination study in upcoming years. For the first time HUD will study housing and rental discrimination experienced by Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and persons with disabilities.

Copies of HDS 2000 may be downloaded from [www.huduser.org/publications/hsgfin/phase1.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/hsgfin/phase1.html), or ordered online at the same Web site or by calling (800) HUD-USER.

# Fair Housing News

## Fair Housing Initiatives Program

Indispensable to HUD's fight against housing discrimination is the network of public and private, profit and non-profit organizations.

FHEO funds a variety of organizations under the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) nationwide to conduct a wide range of fair housing enforcement, education and outreach activities.

The FHIP provides funds to eligible organizations to carry out these activities under three Initiatives: the Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI); the Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI); and the Fair Housing Organizations Initiative (FHOI).

EOI grants help organizations educate consumers and housing providers on fair housing through a myriad of educational and outreach activities, such as the

development of public service announcements, the distribution of educational materials, the development of outreach materials in languages other than English, and conferences, seminars, and trainings.

PEI grants support the work of fair housing enforcement organizations to aid in the enforcement of the Fair Housing Act by receiving, investigating, and resolving complaints of housing discrimination in their communities. This includes assisting individuals in filing complaints of discrimination with HUD.

FHOI grants are awarded to qualified fair housing enforcement organizations that support the establishment of new organizations or the enhancement of an organization's existing capacity.

### **FHIP Facts**

- In FY 02, FHEO awarded 99 FHIPs organizations in 78 cities nationwide.
- In 2003, HUD will award \$20.2 million in grants to FHIPs.
- In 2004, HUD requested \$20.2 million for FHIP grants.

For a breakdown of how many FHIP grant recipients are in each state, see the map on the back page. For more information about the FHIP, visit the Partners section of the FHEO Web site at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).

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## Fair Housing Assistance Program

The Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) strengthens fair housing efforts nationwide by helping individual State and local governments administer laws that provide rights, procedures, remedies, and the availability of judicial review substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

Under FHAP, HUD reimburses State and local fair housing enforcement agencies for complaint processing, administrative costs, special enforcement efforts, training, partnership activities, and other projects.

FHAP agencies handle and process approximately 67 percent of all

housing discrimination complaints that HUD receives. This partnership between HUD and State and local agencies maximizes the use of local enforcement mechanisms to effectively address housing discrimination.

In order to participate in the FHAP, a jurisdiction must first obtain substantial equivalency certification.

To find out more about substantial equivalency, visit the Partners section of the FHEO Web site at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing). To see which states currently have FHAP agencies, see the map on the back page.

### **FHAP Facts**

- There are 96 substantially equivalent agencies participating in the FHAP, comprised of 35 States, including the District of Columbia, and 61 local jurisdictions.
- In 2003, HUD proposed \$25.6 million in funding for the FHAP.
- For 2004, HUD requested \$29.7 million for FHAP grants.

## HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC  
20410

If you feel your housing rights have been violated, you can file a fair housing complaint by:

Calling: 1-800-669-9777  
TTY: 1-800-927-9275

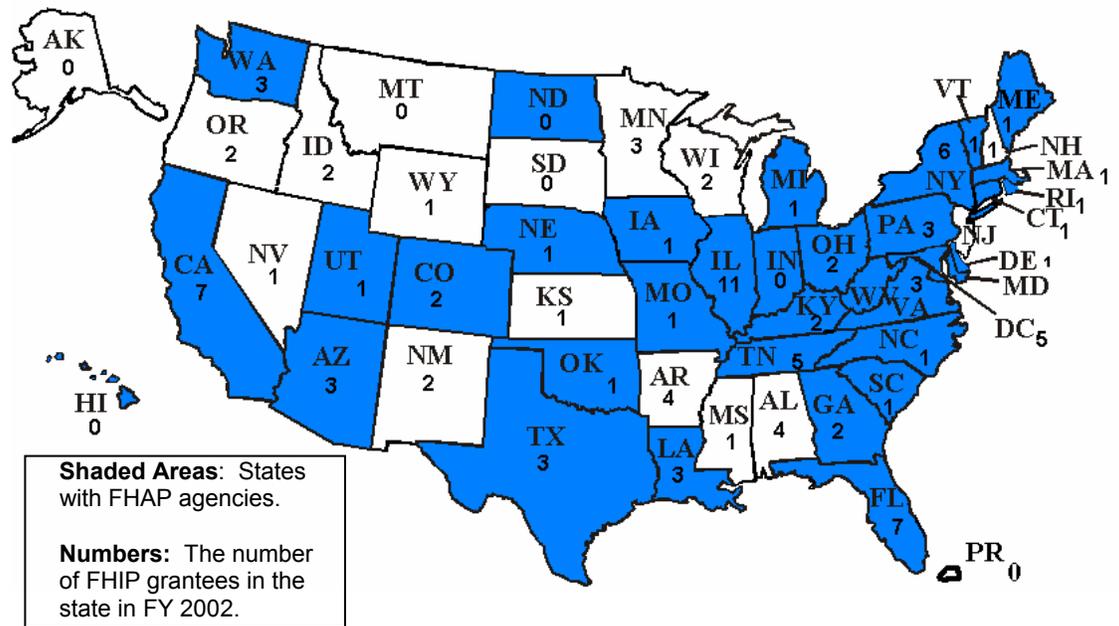
OR

Fill out an online form at:

[www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing)



## FHIP and FHAP Locations



### Fair Housing Month

Throughout the month of April, HUD will celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. The theme for this year is *Welcome Home*. The Opening Ceremony to honor this occasion will be Wednesday, April 2, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the HUD Cafeteria.

April 2, 2003 also is designated as FHIP/FHAP Day. Events will be held at the ten HUD Regional Offices with HUD FHIP organizations and FHAP agencies.

For a list of the dates and locations of Assistant Secretary Carolyn Y. Peoples' appearances and other events, go to [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).

HUD OFFICE OF FAIR  
HOUSING AND EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY

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