


Fighting for the Future of Fair Housing: A City's Responsibility

Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
31st Annual Luncheon and Workshop Series * April 19, 2018

Presented by
Connie M. Bohach, Managing Director of Community Services
City of Grand Rapids



AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

Section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act

- Requires the Secretary of HUD to administer the Department's housing and urban development programs in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing

Since 1988, cities receiving federal housing and community development grants required to certify they will AFFH

Various program statutes combined in 1995

- Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
- Actions to eliminate any identified impediments
- Maintenance of AFFH records

MEANINGFUL ACTIONS that...

Taken together:

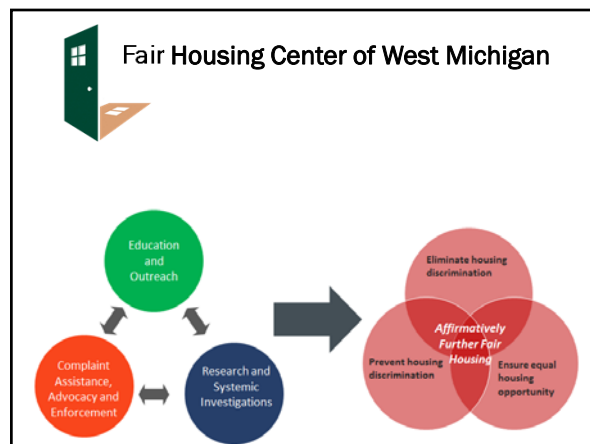
- address significant disparities in housing needs and access to opportunity,
- replace segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns,
- transform racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and
- foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- Complete fair housing assessments that identify trends, barriers
 - Land use and zoning ordinances
 - Permitting and development processes
 - Lending and advertising
- Facilitate planning processes that seek community input and industry voice; and consider regional approaches
- Develop specific priorities, goals and actions
 - Measurable, tracked and publically reported
 - Use deliberate decision making, particularly resource allocation
- Incorporate fair housing planning into existing planning processes

HOW DO WE GET THERE? (CONTINUED)

- Adopt and enforce local ordinances
 - Source of Income (Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Wyoming, Holland)
 - Sexual Orientation (East Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Traverse City)
 - Height & Weight (Kentwood, Muskegon Heights, Traverse City, Wyoming)
 - Political Beliefs/Orientation (Ann Arbor, Lansing)
 - Educational Association/Student Status (Ann Arbor, East Lansing)
 - Victims of domestic violence/stalking (Ann Arbor)
- Maintain strong partnerships...





RESOURCES

Fair Housing Planning Guide outlines the Analysis of Impediments/Action Plan/Documentation requirements

<https://apps.hud.gov/offices/fheo/images/fhpg.pdf>

Fair Housing Toolkit for developers, municipalities and others...

<http://www.fhcsp.com/Links/toolkit.pdf>

AFFH Assessment Tools, Resources, and Training Material – including final rule, Federal Register Notice and FAQ <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/affh/>

<http://www.fhcwm.org/laws>

<http://www.fhcwm.org/publications>

THANK YOU!

Contact Information

Connie Bohatch - cbohatch@grcity.us

(616) 456-3677

