



Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
20 Hall St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Qualifications for Testers

The following are some of the key points to consider when deciding whether or not to become a fair housing “tester.”

1. Testers of **any gender** are needed in **all races, ethnic identities, religions, disability status, sexualities, and ages**.
2. Testers are **actors** and need to be able to feel comfortable **playing the role of a homeseeker**.
3. Testers need to be **flexible**, able to adjust to changing situations and still perform their assigned role as homeseeker.
4. Testers are **trained** in testing procedures by experienced fair housing tester trainers, and follow specific tester assignments for each test.
5. Testers need to be **objective** observers of events. Testers do not try to “find” discrimination. Testers instead pose as homeseekers and make accurate observations of what transpires during their test.
6. Testers must be **accurate recorders** of events. Testers will be expected to make a complete record of their test on a FHC Test Report Form. The ability to use a word processor, adobe, or to write legibly and coherently is crucial.
7. Testers make **credible witnesses** in court. Preference will be given to those whose past background, current standing in the community and ability to convey a message of truthfulness and competence will be recognized and respected by members of a jury. Therefore, individualized assessments are considered for testers with any criminal history.
8. Testers must be **reliable** individuals who can be counted on to complete their agreed-upon assignments at the proper time and in the proper manner.
9. Testers must be willing to maintain **strict confidentiality** about their role as a tester. Normally, only your spouse/companion/immediate family need to know you are or are planning to become a “tester.”
10. Testers may be called upon to **serve as witnesses** in administrative hearings, depositions or court trials.
11. Testers must keep the Test Coordinator informed of any changes in address, phone number, employment or family status. Having consistent access to a phone as well as an email is necessary for **ongoing communication**.
12. Any testers doing in-person assignments must be vaccinated for Covid-19.