



## Community Development Standard Fair Housing Program

The Office of Community Development helps Ohio communities prepare for growth and job creation by administering federally funded programs designed to promote housing, community development, infrastructure improvements, and economic development. Local governments that receive federal funds distributed by the Ohio Development Service's Office of Community Development are subject to Civil Rights and Fair Housing laws, and are required to affirmatively further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. The Office of Community Development staff works with the local communities to design and implement Standard Fair Housing Programs.



### Contact

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**Ohio**

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### What is a Standard Fair Housing Program?

A Standard Fair Housing Program is a community-based framework of analysis, outreach, training, and technical assistance that serves to affirmatively further the purposes of the Fair Housing Act. Through this program, local governments actively promote fair housing by appointing a local contact, analyzing impediments to fair housing choice, and providing targeted public education.

### Local Fair Housing Contact

The local fair housing contact is a local government employee who provides general information, receives and processes fair housing complaints, and refers cases to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

### Education

The Standard Fair Housing Program provides essential education regarding discrimination and fair housing rights. Local governments design an annual training program that includes presentations to residents of areas targeted for federal assistance; special populations affected by federally assisted projects; direct beneficiaries of federal housing assistance; and three additional schools, organizations or civic groups.

### Outreach

To reach a broad community audience, local governments also develop an annual plan to distribute fair housing brochures, pamphlets, posters, and other informational materials to 10 area agencies, organizations, or public events.

### Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

To help target education and outreach efforts, local governments must conduct a comprehensive analysis to identify impediments to fair housing choice within their jurisdiction. The analysis should identify policies, actions, omissions, or decisions that restrict housing choices on the basis of the seven protected classes listed in the Fair Housing Act. The seven protected classes are race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. Ohio's Fair Housing Act (ORC 4112) expands the list of protected classes to include ancestry and military status. Local governments use the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing to develop strategies to address and overcome discriminatory policies and practices.