

FAIR HOUSING PLAN

CITY OF LOCKPORT, NEW YORK

POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Lockport, as part of its Community Development Block Grant Program, is committed to prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in the sale, lease, or rental of housing.

In order to **enforce fair housing provisions** and ensure that residents are aware of their rights under federal and state law, as well as the processes and assistance available to obtain compliance with existing statutes, the City of Lockport has adopted a Fair Housing Plan in conformance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and other applicable HUD regulations.

The Fair Housing Plan consists of the following:

1. A procedure for notifying persons who may have been discriminated against in the sale, lease, or rental of housing about how to file complaints.
2. A procedure for handling complaints resulting from housing discrimination.
3. Designation of the Rehabilitation Coordinator as the Fair Housing Officer.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The City of Lockport will publish a Public Notice in a major local newspaper informing residents whom to contact if they believe they have been discriminated against in the provision of housing.

This Public Notice will be published twice per year and will include the name, address, and phone number of the Fair Housing Officer to enable individuals to file complaints.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Upon receipt of a complaint regarding housing discrimination, the Fair Housing Officer will notify the City of Lockport's Human Relations Commission.

The Human Relations Commission will respond in writing within fifteen (15) days of receiving the complaint. The City will also provide information and assistance to individuals who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination.

1. Discriminatory Housing Practices

For the purposes of this Plan, a “discriminatory housing practice” means an act that is unlawful under Sections 804, 805, 806, or 818 of the Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended).

Such practices include discrimination in the sale or rental of housing, discrimination in the provision of brokerage services, or interference, coercion, or intimidation, as defined under the Act, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or familial status.

2. Receiving Complaints

The Fair Housing Officer will record complaint information on a standard form to ensure that a complete file is established.

The Officer will then contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or the New York State Division of Human Rights to review the complaint and request guidance on formal filing procedures, if the individual chooses to pursue that option.

Copies of all complaints will also be forwarded to the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division of the HUD Office in Buffalo, New York.

If the complainant chooses to take the case directly to Federal Court, the City will consult with the County Bar Association regarding appropriate procedures and how to secure affordable legal services for low- or moderate-income individuals.