



# LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION: ENDING DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING



# LOUISVILLE METRO CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDES FOR NON- DISCRIMINATORY HOUSING PRACTICES

## § 92.03 UNLAWFUL PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSING

Current Protected Classes: race, color, religion,  
national origin, familial status, disability, sex, gender  
identity, or sexual orientation

AS A HUD PARTNER, THE  
HRC ALSO HAS A DUTY TO  
AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER  
FAIR HOUSING

"Taking meaningful actions, in addition to combating discrimination, that overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities free from barriers that restrict access to opportunity based on protected characteristics. Specifically, affirmatively furthering fair housing means taking meaningful actions that, taken together, address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns, transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity, and fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws. The duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all of a program participant's activities and programs relating to housing and urban development."

# AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING

Sources of Income  
Homelessness  
Conviction/Arrest  
History  
Veteran's Status

# COMBATTING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DISCRIMINATION

# SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

“In addition to discrimination based on stereotypes, families that receive a voucher often face challenges finding a rental unit due to legal discrimination against voucher holders—a practice termed ‘Source of Income Discrimination.’”

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0885412216670603>

# SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

The current demographic breakdown of voucher holders is as follows: 38 percent adults with children, 21 percent elderly, 20 percent disabled adults, 12 percent childless adults, 8 percent disabled adults with children, and 1 percent elderly with children (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities 2015)

# SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

▶ 11 states, including Washington, D.C., and over 50 cities and counties have enacted laws that prohibit landlords from refusing to rent to voucher holders solely because of their source of income

▶ A 2001 HUD study found that voucher recipients in jurisdictions with laws that bar discrimination based on source of income (with or without explicit protections for voucher holders) were 12 percentage points more likely to succeed in using their voucher than those who lived in jurisdictions without such laws

▶ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/prohibiting-discrimination-against-renters-using-housing-vouchers-improves-results>

▶ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pilot-study-landlord-acceptance-hcv.html>

▶ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Landlord-Acceptance-of-Housing-Choice-Vouchers.pdf>

# SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

Includes:

child support, alimony, foster care subsidies, income derived from social security, grants, pension, or any form of federal, state, or local public assistance or housing assistance

# SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION

Where people live, work, learn, and play has immense impact on individual and community health. Social, economic, and racial characteristics of neighborhoods are linked to important health indicators such as mortality, disability, chronic diseases, mental health issues, and violence. Factors including economic stability, education, neighborhoods and the built environment, and the social and community context all influence health. SOI antidiscrimination laws both increase the likelihood of housing choice voucher recipients finding a place to live and moving to a higher-opportunity neighborhood.

# HOMELESS DISCRIMINATION

▶ This type of discrimination does not exist in a vacuum, and it frequently overlaps and intersects with other types of prohibited discrimination

▶ <https://nlchp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ProtectTenants2018.pdf>

▶ Homelessness disproportionately affects people of color, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, people who identify as LGBTQ

▶ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homeless-in-america-the-issues-forcing-people-in-seattle-onto-the-street-60-minutes-2019-12-01/>

▶ “No one wants to rent to someone who has lived in a tent for a year.”

# CONVICTION/ARREST HISTORY

▶ As many as 100 million U.S. adults – or nearly one-third of the population – have a criminal record of some sort

▶ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bjs/grants/244563.pdf>

▶ Regardless of race or gender, researchers estimate that by age 23, nearly one in three Americans will have been arrested

▶ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/just-facts-many-americans-have-criminal-records-college-diplomas>

# CONVICTION/ARREST HISTORY

▶ Refusing to rent to people with criminal records — even if they have no intention to discriminate — would likely have a disproportionate impact on African-American and Hispanic applicants. African-American men are imprisoned at a rate nearly six times that of white men, and Hispanic men at more than twice the rate of white men.

▶ <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/04/472878724/denying-housing-over-criminal-record-may-be-discrimination-feds-say>

▶ [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/HUD\\_OGCG\\_UIDAPPFHASTANDCR.PDF](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/HUD_OGCG_UIDAPPFHASTANDCR.PDF)

# CONVICTION/ARREST HISTORY

Without the critical support of stable housing, a person's ability to avoid future contact with the criminal justice system diminishes. One study, for example, followed people for a year after their incarceration and found that those without adequate housing were more than twice as likely to commit another crime as those with adequate housing. Conversely, in another study, homeless individuals with prior convictions were significantly less likely to recidivate if they secured rental housing.

<https://www.povertylaw.org/article/when-discretion-means-denial/>

# VETERAN'S STATUS

▶ United States has been engaged in a perpetual state of war and conflict since the 9/11 terrorist attacks

▶ As of January 2018, Kentucky had an estimated 3,688 experiencing homelessness on any given day, as reported by Continuums of Care to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of that Total, 369 were Veterans

▶ <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/ky/>

# VETERAN'S STATUS

▶ Veterans face the same shortage of affordable housing options and living wage jobs as all Americans, and these factors—combined with the increased likelihood that veterans will exhibit symptoms of PTSD, substance abuse, or mental illness—can compound to put veterans at a greater risk of homelessness than the general population.

▶ <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/veteran-homelessness/>

▶ A 2015 study of veterans initiating medication-administered treatment screened each of these patients for risk of homelessness and found that the prevalence of homelessness in veterans with opioid use disorder is 10 times more than the general veteran population.

▶ <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2018/11/veterans-housing-unaffordable-young-opioid-homeowner/575635/>

QUESTIONS?

