

City of Lake Charles

Fair Housing

I. **Policy Statement**

It shall be the policy and commitment of the City of Lake Charles to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are granted to all persons, in all housing opportunities and development activities funded by the town, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, lawful source of income, familial status, national origin, ancestry, age or mental or physical disability. This shall be done through a program of education, an analysis of impediments, and designation of a Fair Housing Officer and development of a procedure for complaints of discrimination. This plan will incorporate the directives of state and federal laws and executive orders, including, but not limited to:

- The Fair Housing poster is posted at City Hall on the 5th floor.
- The Lake Charles will adopt a Fair Housing Ordinance, a law that aims to curb the potential negative effects of public policies on housing for protected classes and low income residents
- Posters are distributed to all CDBG and HOME Sub-recipients. Fair Housing agreements will be included in subrecipients with housing developers. The subrecipient agreement template, currently under review by the City's legal team is based on a HUD approved template provided by the City's HUD Technical Assistance Provider and includes requirements for documenting compliance with Fair Housing requirements.
- Compliance with Fair Housing requirements will be captured in subrecipient monitoring throughout the life of the project per the City's Subrecipient Monitoring Policies and Procedures document which references HUD checklists.
- In 2013, the City completed an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The City is currently working on an update to that study and will be completed in 2024.
- The State's 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice included data on the City of Lake Charles
- Fair Housing information is included in all HOME Partnership sub-recipient agreements.
- Each year, the City of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Police Jury host a luncheon to celebrate Fair Housing and

presents the Fair Housing Champion Award. Also, Fair Housing workshops are included.

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- The Fair Housing Act – Title VIII of the Civil Rights Action of 1968, as amended
- Executive Order 11063, as amended by Executive Order 12259
- Section 104(b) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended
- Section 109 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended
- Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended
- Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended
- Executive Order 11246 (as amended by Executive Orders 12375 and 12086) Equal Opportunity under HUD contracts and HUD-assisted Construction Contracts
- Executive Order 12892, Leadership and Coordination of Fair Housing

The City of Lake Charles commits to providing and promoting racial and economic integration in any housing development and will take affirmative steps to reach beneficiaries from all racial and ethnic groups as well as the physically or mentally handicapped and families with children and to reach a broad range of income eligible beneficiaries for appropriate and applicable housing opportunities.

II. Complaint Process

Housing discrimination complaint forms such as Forms HUD-903 and HUD-903A (Spanish version) from HUD, as well as a summary of actions which may constitute housing discrimination, and instructions for completing and filing housing discrimination complaints will be made available to citizens at City Hall, 326 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, LA 70601. Complaints need not be made on official forms to be valid.

The City of Lake Charles will reasonably assist the complainant in submitting the complaint to the appropriate body by providing assistance in explaining the form and/or contacting the appropriate office and allowing the use of town phones for communication.

The individual(s) filing the complaint will then be advised of the option of filing directly with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) within one year after an alleged violation. The individual should also be advised of the option of filing suit, at his/her expense, in Federal District Court or State Court within two years of an alleged violation. The individual should be further advised that if he/she cannot afford an attorney, the Court may appoint one and that a suit may be commenced even after filing a complaint, if the individual has not signed a conciliation agreement and an Administrative Law Judge has not started a hearing. A court may award actual and punitive damages and attorney's fees and costs.

FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLAN AND ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS

Impediments	Proposed Actions	Activities	Outreach	Time Frame	Measurable Results
1). Insufficient fair housing system capacity to respond to questions of concerns or to address fair housing needs.	1). Participate in a proposed Lake Charles Fair Housing Working Group.	1). A dedicated hotline for Citizens to call.	1). Provide literature to renters, homebuyers and landlords.	1). Annually	1). 50% of citizens will become knowledgeable of Fair Housing Laws and how to take action
2). Lack of effective referral system	2). Increase Fair Housing outreach and education	2). Post signs in designated areas	2). Using media, television, newspaper and radio PSA's.	2). Annually	2). 50% of citizens will become knowledgeable of Fair Housing Laws and how to take action
3). Lack of sufficient financial literacy	3). Enhance homebuyer education activities and financial literacy	3). Hold Workshops	3). Media	3). Annually	3). 10% of citizens will attend homebuyer education and homebuyer counseling workshops

III. Implementation and Action Steps

The City of Lake Charles will adopt annually a Fair Housing Policy Statement and a Fair Housing Resolution as an indication of its commitment to Fair Housing Month during the month of April.

The City of Lake Charles will display its fair housing policies/procedures and ADA policies and grievance procedure on its website.

The City of Lake Charles will display fair housing posters identifying the City's Fair Housing Office, address and phone number in prominent locations throughout the City.

IV. Implementation and Action Steps

The City of Lake Charles will periodically review Analysis of Impediments and conduct a review of policies, practices and procedures that affect the availability and accessibility of housing.

V. Timetable

The City of Lake Charles will determine a reasonable timetable to carry out action steps within three years of adaption of the revised Fair Housing Plan.

VI. Amendments

The City of Lake Charles shall amend and revise this plan as required to keep current with State/Federal Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Policies and procedures and local actions and activities to further purposes of this Plan.