



A New Commitment to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) invests almost \$100 million each year in Louisville through a series of programs. Public housing and Section 8 rental assistance vouchers are well known, but there is also Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, HOME funds, and funding for the shelters and housing programs for the homeless.

Theoretically, HUD always intended those funds to further fair housing, but, until recently, they never explained exactly what the phrase “further fair housing” meant. HUD recently published proposed regulations regarding the commitment to further fair housing the agency considers mandatory for the city of Louisville or any other city receiving HUD funds.

According information provided by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, here are some of the most important features of the new regulations:

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING”?

HUD is proposing a change so that affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) would mean taking proactive steps for the “protected classes” to:

1. Overcome segregated living patterns.
2. Support and promote integrated communities.
3. End racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty.
4. Address major differences in access to community assets: education, transportation, economic, and other important assets in a community, based on the location of housing.
5. Foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.

Furthering Fair Housing (Cont.)

HUD will accomplish this primarily by:

1. Using federal and other resources;
2. Taking actions that address or lessen fair housing “issues” identified in an Assessment of Fair Housing, and,
3. Promoting fair housing choice consistent with the Fair Housing Act.

How will the HUD regulation promote this?

- Replacing the current Analysis of Impediments (AI), for which no format or standards exist, with a standardized Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH).
- Providing nationally uniform data from HUD.
- Incorporating language in the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) and PHA Plan regulations that directly tie those plans’ priority setting, use of resources, and specific activities to the AFH.
- Requiring the AFH to be submitted to HUD for review and “acceptance” (AIs were not submitted to or reviewed by HUD) well in advance of preparing a five-year ConPlan or PHA Plan so that the AFH informs the priorities, dollar allocations, and future activities covered by those plans.

This clarification was a huge step forward in the area of fair housing and for several organizations.

On September 10, the Louisville Fair Housing Coalition and MHC along with the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, Louisville League of Women Voters, Tyler Park Neighborhood Association, and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights sponsored a community conversation on what these regulations would mean for our community. The event gave the public a chance to discuss the proposed new regulations with local HUD officials and others involved in fair housing locally. New Directions Housing Corporation graciously provided space for the event at their Louisville offices. **(Cont.)**

Fair Housing (Cont.)

Those who regularly read the annual MHC State of Metropolitan Housing Report have seen little progress over the years in tearing down the barriers that perpetuate intense concentrations of people in protected classes, such as African-Americans and female-headed households, in certain areas of our city. Those of you who, like MHC, attended a series of public hearings on how to spend HUD funds and found little specificity regarding how to further fair housing and virtually no coordination between the agencies and departments charged with spending those funds, will now see mandatory coordination and a required and specific set of actions outlined to further fair housing.

MHC applauds HUD for moving fair housing forward with these new regulations.

**Special Meeting of the Metro Council Ad Hoc Vacant Properties Committee:
Presentation of the report from RKG consultants on the issue of vacant properties and recommendations
October 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Metro Council.**

Those of you interested in the issue of vacant properties have been anticipating the report from the consulting firm of RKG on this issue and are anxious to hear the recommendations. These consultants were paid for with a grant to Metro government from the Bloomberg Foundation.

The Metro Council Ad Hoc Committee on Vacant Properties will hold a special meeting to hear the report's findings and recommendations. While there is a regular meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Vacant Properties scheduled on October 8, MHC anticipates that meeting may be cancelled, so check with Metro before trying to attend the October 8 meeting.

The October 10 meeting at 11:00 a.m. is open to the public and will be broadcast simultaneously on Metro TV and the internet, so set your recording devices. You will want to hear this!

MHC trains property owners on going smoke-free

On September 5th and 12th, MHC staff conducted two separate trainings at the offices of the Louisville Apartment Association (LAA) for property owners and managers on how to make their multifamily rental properties tobacco smoke free.

The trainings included a review of the health risks of smoking and tobacco smoke, the challenge in protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke in a multifamily environment, and a review of fair housing law and local, state, and federal codes to ensure any smoking ban remains in compliance. Representatives from the Lexington Fair Housing Council and the Louisville Legal Aid Society assisted in the training.

The trainings are part of a partnership between MHC and the Louisville Metro Department of Health. The partnership is funded in part through a Community Transformation Grant awarded Louisville Metro Health from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and is part of Louisville's Healthy Hometown Initiative.

MHC is collaborating on the project with the Lexington Fair Housing Council, Louisville Legal Aid Society, and the Louisville Apartment Association (LAA) on the project. The Louisville Metro Housing Authority is simultaneously working on a similar education and training program for public housing sites.

For the project, MHC will conduct four trainings on how to make an existing multifamily property smoke-free. The first training was held in mid-August for the staff of the Louisville Apartment Association. A fourth training will be conducted for owners and managers at the LAA's annual fair housing training in November. MHC will also produce outreach materials regarding the training and work with Metro Health staff to make materials related to the training available through the Healthy Hometown Web site.

Despite the health risks, some property owners are concerned that going smoke-free means discriminating against smokers. However, smokers are not a protected class under the Fair Housing Act and while some caution must be taken in enacting a smoking ban, particularly in grandfathering in existing residents, no real reasons to keep interested property owners from going smoke-free.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 28, 2pm to 6pm Kentuckians For The Commonwealth (KFTC) hosts an Open House at the new Jefferson County KFTC office located in the Smoketown neighborhood at 735 Lampton Street, Louisville, KY. Great opportunity to meet KFTC members and staff and Smoketown residents. Free food and music will be provided. In the event of inclement weather the event will be moved to Sunday, September 29.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 19, 1-3pm
MHC Jewelry Sale Fundraiser

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Dr. Renee Campbell's amazing handmade jewelry, featuring elements from around the world, will be on sale with half the proceeds benefitting MHC.

Start your holiday shopping early or just pick up something special for yourself and benefit MHC too!

Join MHC for a community forum on the decline of property values in Louisville's West End neighborhoods

Thursday, October 3rd at 5:00 PM
Louisville Urban League,
1535 W Broadway

Join MHC for a presentation on Historic Tax Credits and Preservation In the reuse of property

Tuesday, October 15, 5:30pm at Parkland Family Scholar House, 1309 Catalpa

When do you most often hear about housing issues in local media and conversation?

Usually about the time MHC releases our annual *State of Metropolitan Housing Report*.

Work has begun on the 2013 *State of Metropolitan Housing Report*, but we need your support today to ensure that MHC is again able to raise awareness about critical housing issues in our community and provide valuable information for community partners.

Support MHC's work with a donation today!

October 10 9:00am-4:00pm Kentucky Hispanic, Immigrant, and Refugee Networking Summit Location: UK Cooperative Extension Office 1117 Frankfort Road Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065 The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights (KCHR) is hosting its eighth annual on October 10, 2013 to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and to continue to foster greater collaboration and communication between federal and state governments and the immigrant community. Learn about needs and potential of KY's growing immigrant population and ways to work w/ credible Latino media, Hispanic/Latino Centers and other immigrant centers. If interested, email juan.pena@ky.gov or call Juan Pena at [502-595-4024 Ext. 47](tel:502-595-4024). Please send all your contact information (name of organization, address, phone number, email address, website, etc).

Monday, October 21st; 5:30 dinner, 6:00 program League of Women Voters - DINNER AND DEMOCRACY – Community Forum: *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*: A Look at our Food Supply Panel Discussion with Theresa Zawacki, Assistant Director of Economic Development and Louisville Metro Project Manager of LIFE-Locally Integrated Food Economy, and Pam Rogers, with The Humane Society of the U. S. Event will be held at Lang House, 115 S. Ewing, More information at 895-5218 or info@lwvlouisville.org

Saturday, Nov. 2 6:00pm Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, Inc. celebrates their 20th Anniversary at the KY Derby Museum. Single tickets are \$65 pp, table of 10 for \$650. There will be a cocktail hour, music, silent auction, dinner, catered by the Silver Spoon, keynote speaker Clive Rainey, HFH's first volunteers and a specially created 20th Anniversary video presentation. The day will begin with racing and end at approximately 5:30 p.m. with the running of the 1st ever KyHFH Handicap, sponsored by Ball Homes. For \$10 pp, you receive admission to the day's racing venue, free parking, and a daily program. Please contact Mary Shearer, ED, KyHFH at mary@kyhfh.org for more information and to order tickets.

November 9 & 16th Project Warm's 23rd annual Volunteer Weatherization Blitz. Volunteers are needed to help weatherize homes by installing interior plastic storm windows in homes with elderly and physically challenged folks. Volunteers work in teams of 4-5. The team is assigned two homes on a Saturday morning, Nov 9 or 16. Materials and a hot light breakfast are provided. For more information, call 636-WARM, contact mari@projectwarm.org or go to our website projectwarm.org.

Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing!

Make your donation online at www.metropolitanhousing.org or
mail this form to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204-4533

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for its continuing support



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