

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 upon the basis of race, color, religion, sex or origin in the sale, lease or rental of housing. In order to enforcement fair housing provisions and to ensure that residents are aware of fair housing provisions under Federal and State law and of the processes and assistance available to obtain compliance with existing statues, the City of Lockport has adopted a Fair Housing Plan in conformance with the requirement 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 of notifying persons who may have been discriminated against in the sale, lease or rental of housing of filing complaints.
2. A procedure for the handling of complaints resulting from housing discrimination.
3. Designation of the Rehabilitation Coordinator as the Fair Housing Officer.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The City of Lockport will have placed in the major local newspaper a Public Notice informing people of the person and an agency they should contact should they feel they have been discriminated against in the provision of housing: This Public Notice will be placed in the newspaper two times per year. The Public Notice will list the name, address and phone number of the Fair Housing Officer to enable the petitioners 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 of the complaint. The Human Relations Commission will respond in writing in fifteen (15) days to the complaint. The City will provide information and assistance to individuals who feel that they have been the victims of discrimination in regard to housing.

1. *Discriminatory Housing Practices*

For the purpose 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 discriminatory housing 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 information on a standard form to ensure that a complete file is established. Following this, the Fair Housing Officer will then contact the Department of HUD and/or the New York State division of Human Rights to review the particulars of the complaint and request guidance in the formal filing of the complaint in cases where the individual decides to use this method. 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 decides to take his/her case directly to Federal Court, the City will consult with the County Bar Association on the appropriate procedures to be followed and the procedure for securing affordable legal services if the individual is low- or moderate-income.