

Department: County Human Services

Program Contact: Peggy Samolinski

Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program

Program Offer Stage: As Requested

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: Out of Target

Executive Summary

Fair housing audit testing is a well-established method of gauging discrimination in housing access throughout the United States. Locally, the City of Portland funds testing within city limits, but no such testing has been conducted in Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village. This program will extend similar testing to cover all of Multnomah County. It will provide insight into the kinds of housing discrimination faced by people considered a "protected class" under the Fair Housing Act, and would inform policy decisions to address such discrimination.

Program Summary

ISSUE: Fair housing testing has proven to be an important tool in understanding the extent to which discrimination remains present in the housing market. Testing refers to the use of individuals who, without a bona fide intent to rent or purchase a home, apartment, or other dwelling, pose as prospective renters or purchasers to gather information which may indicate whether a housing provider is complying with fair housing laws. Testing is an objective method to compare whether members of a protected class are given different information, services, or treatment than a non-protected class tester, and/or to identify any policies that are not in compliance with fair housing laws. Housing policy long been used as a strategy to segregate communities, and is pivotal to understanding the history of discrimination in this nation. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 sought to address systemic discrimination in the housing market by prohibiting discriminations based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status.

GOAL: Conduct Fair housing audit testing in east Multnomah County, including Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village.

ACTIVITY: This program will fund audit testing in east Multnomah County to better understand the level of discrimination in the housing market and to inform policies that can respond to discrimination. Testing refers to the use of individuals who, without a bona fide intent to rent or purchase a home, apartment, or other dwelling, pose as prospective renters or purchasers to gather information which may indicate whether a housing provider is complying with fair housing laws. Testing is an objective method to compare whether members of a protected class are given different information, services, or treatment than a non-protected class tester, and/or to identify any policies that are not in compliance with fair housing laws.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of fair housing tests conducted in East Multnomah County	N/A	N/A	N/A	45
Outcome	Number of alleged housing discrimination investigations, advocacy & support conducted	N/A	N/A	N/A	55
Output	Number of Fair Housing training and outreach events for direct service staff	N/A	N/A	N/A	10

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$70,000	\$0
Program Total:	\$0		\$70,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: