

Winning entries will be on display in the City Hall Lobby from May 28th - May 30th
Presented by Prairie State Legal Service, HomeStart, and the City of Rockford

FAIR HOUSING ART CONTEST 2019

In honor of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act into law in 1968, Prairie State Legal Services, HomeStart and the City of Rockford are hosting an art contest for individuals, K-5th grade.

Each individual, K-5th grade, is encouraged to read this packet with a supervisor and discuss what the Federal Fair Housing Act means to them, their family, and our community.

LEARN

about the importance of diversity, inclusion, and the Federal Fair Housing Act through the interactive coloring book and art contest!

CELEBRATE

the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 and diversity in your community.

CREATE

a piece of art with markers, crayons, paint, etc. that shows how different people make your community great.



The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Government.

GUIDELINES

Individual must be in grades K through 5th (includes homeschooled individuals)

Individual must live within the City of Rockford

The entry must be submitted on an 8 ½ X 11 piece of paper.

Use of any art materials are acceptable including crayons, colored pencils, paint etc.

TIMELINE

Wednesday May 1, 2019: Mail in entries must be postmarked mailed submissions by this date.

Friday May 3, 2019: Hand delivered submissions must be dropped off by this date

Thursday May 30, 2019: Awards Ceremony, @ 6:30pm at the Rockford City Hall Lobby

Everyone is welcome!

Drop off or mail submissions locations:

Prairie State Legal Services

Attn: Jennifer Cuevas
303 N Main St Suite 600
Rockford IL 61101
(M-F 8:30 to 5:00)
(Mail or drop-off location)

HomeStart

Attn: Cassidy Kraimer
803 N Church St
Rockford IL 61103
(M-F 8:30 to 5:00)
(Mail or drop-off location)

The City of Rockford-City Hall

Attn: Andrea Hinrichs
425 E State Street, 2nd Floor
Rockford IL 61103
(M-F 8:00 to 5:00)
(Drop-off only!)



51st Anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Act Drawing Contest Permission and Registration

All submitted entries are the property of Prairie State Legal Services, HomeStart, and the City of Rockford. Our agencies may use these entries on various media outlets to promote Fair Housing in our community.

Participant's Name:	
Grade:	
Guardian Name:	
Guardian Phone:	
Guardian Email Address:	
Guardian Signature:	

The Federal Fair Housing Act

On April 11, 1968, just seven days after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, congress adopted the *Federal Fair Housing Act*. The act states that discrimination in housing is against the law. President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill into law on April 11, 1968.

This year marks the 51st anniversary of the passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act!



So what does fair housing mean?

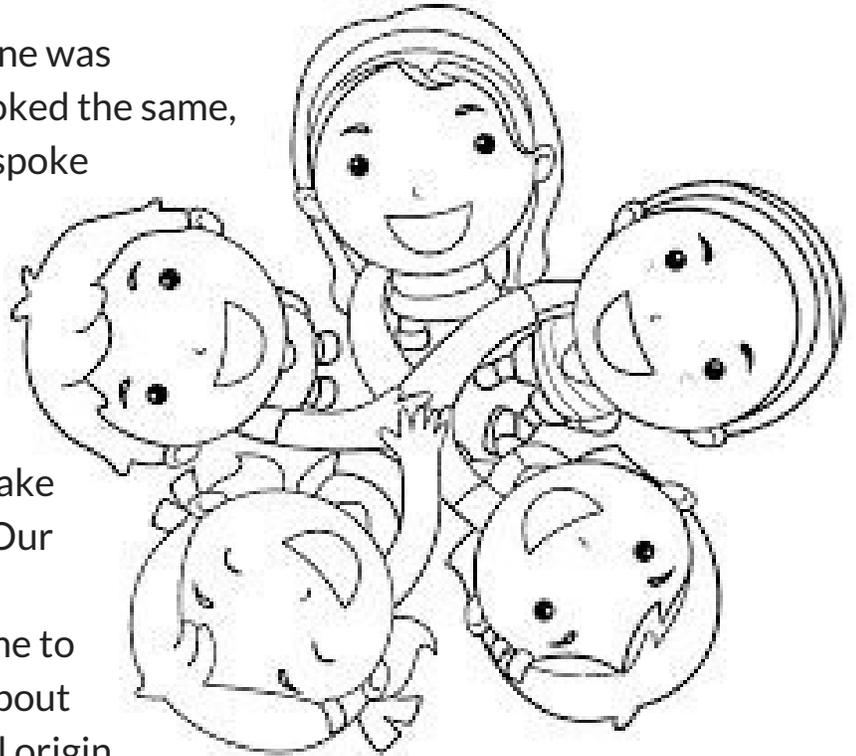
A short lesson: Diversity

You might notice there are a lot of people at your school, in your neighborhood, and in your community that are different than you. This is called ***diversity!***

Wouldn't it be a boring world if everyone was exactly the same? What if everyone looked the same, dressed alike, ate the same foods, and spoke the same language? The world would be pretty uninteresting!

What makes the world exciting is that we're all different!

There are many things about us that make us different. Some examples include: Our favorite color or favorite food. That is something that we can change from time to time. However, there are also things about us that cannot change, like our national origin, which means the country where we were born!



Think about the size of our city, Rockford, Illinois. It is pretty large. What about the size of America, or even the world? There are so many different ways people dress, speak, eat, and play around the world that is what makes us different. What are some examples of things that make you different?

Fair Housing

Discrimination happens when people are treated differently because of something they cannot change. One example of something you cannot change is the color of your skin.



What is Housing Discrimination?

Housing discrimination occurs when someone won't allow you to live in a certain place because of something that is different about you. This is illegal.



What does fair housing mean?

Fair housing laws protect you from housing discrimination.

Fair housing allows your family to choose where they can afford to live. Fair housing laws make it against the law for anyone to discriminate against your family in selling them a house or renting them an apartment because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or because they have children (familial status).



An example: A person with a disability cannot get into an apartment or enjoy its full use because of the stairs could be housing discrimination.

In Illinois, the law protects other differences including age, military status (service men and women who are currently on active duty, reserve status or discharged from the armed forces), marital status (people who are married or single), pregnancy, and order of protection status.

Why is Fair Housing important?

Fair Housing benefits everyone! Fair housing:

- ✓ Strengthens communities
- ✓ Strengthens business and the economy
- ✓ Strengthens families.

Parents and Guardians:

April marks 51 years of the Federal Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Act is one of the most important laws in America because where you live affects all areas of your life including:

- o Access to living wage jobs
- o Access to quality food and healthcare
- o Access to high performing schools
- o Access to safe lenders

Lack of an integrated community affects your life in many ways including:

- o Raising your chances of becoming incarcerated
- o Decreasing your income
- o Decreasing the chances your child will attend college.

What Can You Do to support the Fair Housing Act?

Here are some things you and your family can do:

- o Set a good example by treating all people alike.
- o Be a good neighbor! Volunteer in your community.
- o Make a friend in school who might be a little different from you.
- o Learn about the people who live in your neighborhood and about where you and others are from.
- o Start or join a stop-bullying campaign at your school.
- o At lunch, sit with someone you have not sat with before.
- o What else can you do? _____

The Fair Housing Act is a powerful tool for fighting housing discrimination and expanding housing opportunities for all.

The Fair Housing Act applies to all housing providers such as landlords, property owners, real estate agents, mortgage bankers, home insurance companies, and housing authorities. Prairie State Legal Services, HomeStart, and the City of Rockford dedicate their time and efforts to assisting the community and its residents and making our City a more inclusive community.

Art Contest Submission Page!

Think of where you live or play, imagine someone
different from you just moved in.

How would you welcome your new neighbor?