

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 VIDEO 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 video contest for individuals, 6th-12th grade.

Individuals 6th-12th grade, are encouraged to read this packet independently, in a group, or 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 this Fair Housing Packet and video contest.

CELEBRATE

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

CREATE

a video that demonstrates the importance of diversity and the impact Fair Housing has on where you live.



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GUIDELINES

Individual must be in grades 6th through 12th (including homeschooled students)

Individual must live within the City of Rockford

Acceptable video submission formats can include:

MOV, MPEG, FLV, and AVI

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 Video 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: | |

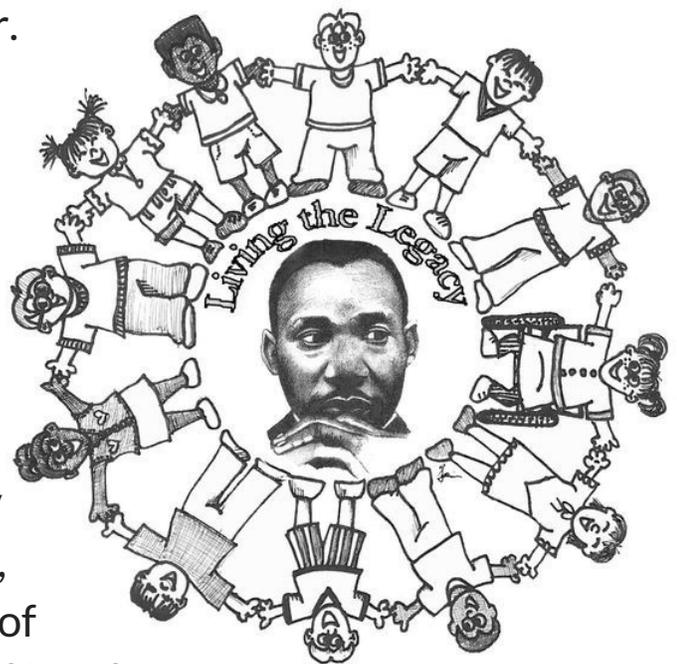
The Federal Fair Housing Act History

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. The enactment of the Federal Fair Housing Act came only after a long and difficult journey.

The Act was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination. The 1968 act expanded these rights and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status.

From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to gather a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

With the cities rioting after Dr. King's assassination, and destruction mounting in every part of the United States, the words of President Johnson and Congressional leaders rang the Bell of Reason for the House of Representatives, who subsequently passed the Fair Housing Act. Without debate, the Senate followed the House in its passage of the Act, which President Johnson then signed into law.



What is the Federal Fair Housing Act?

The Fair Housing Act was passed to address discriminatory practices by real estate agents, landlords and other entities or people who was in the business of selling or renting housing of any kind. What are some examples of these discriminatory practices?

Real estate covenants forbidding the sale of property to people of certain races in a particular neighborhood or real estate development. (Covenants are agreements between two parties.) Real estate covenants may cover a variety of issues, not all of which are discriminatory. Racially discriminatory covenants were meant to prevent African-Americans from purchasing homes within the covenant boundaries.

Blockbusting is the practice of real estate agents telling homeowners that members of a particular race, religion or ethnic group were moving into their neighborhood. The realtors also told the homeowners that these “different” people would significantly reduce the value of their property. This led to homeowners selling their homes for less than they were worth. The real estate agents then sold these “scared” homeowners houses in a more expensive neighborhood and sold the now less-valued homes to people of a particular race, religion or ethnic group. This practice created segregated, economically less attractive neighborhoods.

Redlining is another discriminatory practice. It came about in the 1930s when the federal government made money available to banks and other lending institutions for home mortgage loans. Banks, many times in collaboration with real estate agents and the federal government, would draw a “red line” around a neighborhood that was considered risky. Most of the times these “red-lined” neighborhoods had a large minority population. This was a hardship for both the buyer and the seller. While the best known examples of redlining have involved denial of financial services such as banking or insurance, other services such as health care or even supermarkets have been denied to residents in minority neighborhoods.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits the following actions:

Refusal to sell or rent a home or apartment to any person because of race, color, religion, or national origin. Later on through legislation or executive orders, familial status, disability and gender were added to this list.

Advertising the sale or rental of a dwelling indicating preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin. Later on through legislation or executive orders, familial status, disability and gender were added to this list.

The Federal Fair Housing Act Video Contest

Today we ask that you reflect on the history of the Fair Housing Act and take the time to recognize the importance of equality, diversity, and Fair Housing practices that continue to impact communities across Rockford, Illinois, and the United States.

For this video contest, consider how you can see Fair Housing benefiting your neighborhood.

Do you feel your community is diverse?

What makes a community diverse?

How can we improve as a community?

What makes Fair Housing good?

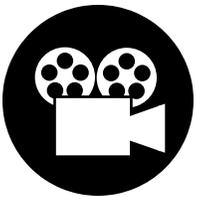
What could be improved?

How do you feel Fair Housing practices and diversity impact you?

Consider how you can see Fair Housing benefiting your neighborhood. You might also find that historic discrimination might still impact your family, neighborhood, and community. What do you think can be done about it? Here are a couple of ideas to get your video started:



Interview your neighbors, friends, or parents



Vlog your day



Write a poem, short story, song, or choreograph a dance - video your performance

Why is Fair Housing important?

The Fair Housing Act is a powerful tool for fighting housing discrimination and expanding housing opportunities for all. Everyone is impacted by the Fair Housing Act!

Fair housing benefits everyone! Fair housing:

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

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 in 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 they 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 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.