NEW PROTECTIONS

On January 1, 2023, source of income will be a protected class under the Illinois Human Rights Act.

For renters, this means that any legal, verifiable source of income or housing assistance payment, must be treated the same by landlords as employment income.

If you are denied housing or treated unfairly, you can seek legal help.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Source of income is defined as “the lawful manner by which an individual supports himself or herself and his or her dependents.”

Examples:

- Emergency Rental Assistance
- Housing Choice Vouchers
- Veteran’s Benefits
- Homeless Prevention Programs
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Child Support
- Alimony
- Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF)

UNDER THE NEW LAW, LANDLORDS CANNOT:

- Advertise a preference for a certain type of income. For example, “must have proof of employment.”
- Deny a certain type of income. "No Housing Choice Voucher or Sec. 8."
- Refuse to accept rental subsidies such a Housing Choice Voucher program, or rental assistance.
- Refuse to complete voucher paperwork for assistance programs.
- Treat renters differently based on their source of income. For example, charging different rent amounts, security deposits, or other fees for renters who use housing subsidies.
- Impose different terms, conditions, privileges, or services because of how an individual or household pays for rent
REPORT DISCRIMINATION IF...

- Landlord requires proof of employment and refuses other sources of income.
- Your application is rejected/stalled once your source of income is known.
- Different fees/rent are required because of your source of income.
- A landlord refuses to complete necessary paperwork or participate in an inspection for your rental subsidy to be approved.
- There is a policy requiring that voucher holders earn an income of 2-3 times the TOTAL rent, instead of 2-3 times the portion of rent that the tenant is responsible for.

DETAILS NEEDED:
Collect as much information and record as many details as possible that will help in making a complaint. Make a record of when the incident took place and keep the related ad, email or text in a safe place. Include details like:
- the first and last name of the person you spoke to,
- the time and date of when it happened,
- the address of the housing you are trying to rent, and
- details about what happened or was said.

WHERE TO GET HELP:

CHICAGO

Access Living (for people with disabilities)
312-640-2106  TTY: 312-640-2102
civilrightsintake@accessliving.org
accessliving.org

Legal Aid Chicago
(serves all of Cook County)
312-423-5909
legalaidchicago.org

Northside Community Resources
773-338-7722 Ext.16
northsidecommunityresources.org

UIC Law Fair Housing Legal Clinic
312-786-2267
law-fairhousingclinic@uic.edu
https://law.uic.edu/fairhousing

OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO

HOPE Fair Housing Center
630-690-6500
hopefair.org

Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council
314-534-5800
ehocstl.org

Open Communities
847-501-5760
open-communities.org

North Suburban Housing Center
708-957-4674
southsuburbanhousingcenter.org

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708-957-4674
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Prairie State Legal Services Fair Housing Project
855-FHP-PSLS (855-347-7757)
fairhousing@pslegal.org

https://law.uic.edu/fairhousing