

Liberty County Fair Housing Policy for CDBG Grants

Fair Housing Resolution

Liberty County is committed to conducting activities in a manner consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 109 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Services and programs will not inhibit persons or business rights to fair housing on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status or disability.

Fair Housing Policies

Policies and program guidance will ensure all programs and services related to fair housing are conducted in a manner to affirmatively further Fair Housing efforts consistent with the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3608(e)(5)); (E.O.12259(1-202)); (24 CFR 570.601), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and 24 CFR part 8.

Fair Housing in Contracts

Liberty County agrees that in an effort to affirmatively further fair housing practices, all contractors, sub-contractors, sub-recipients or consultants receiving funds directly or a pass-thorough of funds will ensure in the provision of services, persons will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status, age or disability.

Additionally, all contracts, agreements and sub-contracts shall contain language to requiring recipients and sub-recipients to institute policies and procedures (including a fair housing ordinance or resolution to continue to affirmatively further fair housing) to demonstrate no person being denied benefit, excluded or being subjected to discrimination under any program funded in whole or part by federal funds. A person's inability to participate in a program must not be based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, or familial status.

Analysis to Impediments

Historically, barriers prevented groups of persons from benefiting from community services and programs based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability. Fair Housing efforts sought to provide aid to these groups that would enable them access to previously denied services or programs for housing. Analysis of these barriers helped identify what community impediments existed to better target action steps to overcome them.

Potential impediments in fair housing in the past have been related to and in:

- Local planning, zoning, and land-use controls
- Lending practices of community financial institutions
- Real Estate sales and rental practices within the community
- Areas where minorities are populated.

- Quality of services provided in areas where there are high concentrations of minorities.

Community Needs and Assessments

Liberty County will make every effort assessing impediments to fair housing choice that currently exists and identifying action steps to address them. This may include utilization of the State of Florida's Analysis to Impediments (AI) or using an independent Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required AI to identify any impediments.

Efforts to identify and address impediments will include:

- Establishing a methodology to identify what impediments exist in Liberty County
 - Are these based on the covered basis for fair housing?
- State the impediments.
- Community input related to AI and next steps to address.
 - Posted notices of meeting in local newspaper, county website
- Identify action steps to address impediments.
 - Provide feedback to community on the results of AI.
- Address any policies related to fair housing that maybe impacted by the identified impediments or require updates as a result.

Background Data and Tracking

Once the AI has been identified and action steps have been developed to address them, the Fair Housing Coordinator will track the progress of these steps through the Fair Housing Coordinator. Progress will be reported to the Board of County Commission at routine intervals (no less than annually) and well reported in the annual report for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Tracking will include reporting on the identified impediments, the actions that will be undertaken to address them and progress toward overcoming the impediment.

Fair Housing Coordinator

The Fair Housing Coordinator assists the county with the coordination of services and programs related to fair housing, including tracking complaints received, progress on addressing identified impediments and reporting outcomes. Contact information is as follows:

Alison Maloy
Phone: (850)643-2692
amaloy@libertybocc.com

The Fair housing coordinator shall be available during regular business hours to receive fair housing calls, and their contact information will be published on a quarterly basis in a local newspaper or on the home page of the County's website.

This policy is hereby adopted by the Liberty County Board of County Commissioner on the _____ day of _____, 2023.