



Get the facts!

About Fair Housing

Studies show that a diverse community is a healthy and desirable community. Open Communities is here to help make our communities better places to live and ensure everyone's fair housing rights. We can:

- Educate you about your rights
- Help you learn how to be a strong advocate for yourself in your housing search
- Contact a landlord to provide education about fair housing laws
- Write a letter on your behalf to request a reasonable accommodation from your landlord
- Help you file a housing discrimination complaint.

Discrimination Today

These days, housing discrimination is usually subtler than a slammed door or rude statement. Unsuspecting house or apartment seekers may be politely turned away from the home of their choice, even though they are qualified to live there. You have the right to equal treatment when renting or buying a home. Federal, state and local laws protect each one of us from being discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, presence of children and gender. If you've heard remarks such as these or other discouraging comments while looking for a place to live, you may have experienced housing discrimination:

- "We don't rent to more than two people for a two-bedroom apartment."
- "You can't build a ramp for access to the building—it won't look good."
- "I'm sorry, but I can't work with your translator."
- "This is a Christian community. You might not feel comfortable here."
- "We just rented the apartment." But the unit still is available the next day.

When you contact us, our fair housing experts will evaluate the facts of your situation and talk with you about your rights and options.

What You Can Do if you feel you're being treated unfairly:

- **Contact Open Communities' Fair Housing staff** at 847-501-5760, ext. 408.
- **Document the problem**
- **Keep detailed records** as to what was said and the outcome.
- **Save** all receipts, copies of application forms, business cards and other relevant documents.
- **Don't delay** if you're considering filing a complaint—there are time limits of from 180 days to two years, depending on where the housing option is located.



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Open Communities is a leading voice for housing, economic and social justice in north suburban Chicago, working to promote inclusive communities that are welcoming to all.