



# Fair Housing Tester FAQ

## What is a fair housing tester?

A tester is someone who poses as a renter or homebuyer for the purpose of collecting evidence about housing transactions in our community. A tester meets with a real estate agent, landlord, property owner or building manager to ask about housing availability and records the results.

## Why is testing important?

It's not always obvious that what happened to an individual or family was the result of unlawful discrimination. Testers provide the additional information necessary to support a complaint, and thus can make a huge difference in achieving a just outcome.

## What is a tester required to do?

Once you attend a three-hour training session and satisfactorily complete a practice test, you're ready to serve as a tester. Testing assignments are handed out on an as-needed basis. After you receive a test assignment, you visit the housing provider in question, complete a questionnaire, write a factual narrative, and submit these documents to Open Communities' test coordinator.

## What is the time commitment?

While test assignments are time-sensitive, this work can be arranged to fit into your schedule. Testers include people who are employed and test in their free time, retirees, college students, and those in between jobs; some testers test once a year, some more frequently.

## What is the compensation?

You receive \$35 for the initial training and practice test and are then reimbursed \$60 for each rental test and \$85 for each home sales test. In all cases, you receive reimbursement for travel and related out-of-pocket expenses. Not to mention the satisfaction of knowing you're helping to uncover, and therefore prevent, housing discrimination! *Note: The frequency of test assignments cannot be guaranteed, so please don't plan to rely on these funds to cover all your living expenses.*

## If you'd like to help perform this valuable community service, contact:

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**REMEMBER: HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT. FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW.**