

Contact the following agencies for help with housing issues:

ECHO HOUSING

- Housing discrimination complaints (Fair Housing services)
- Finding a home
- Help paying your rent
- Tenant and landlord services, including counseling or mediation
- Call 925-732-3919 or email contact@echo.fairhousing.org.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HOUSING SERVICES

COLLABORATIVE

- Tenant-Landlord Counseling
- Fair Housing
- Legal Advice and Representation
- Education and Outreach

BAY AREA LEGAL AID

- Free civil legal advice, counsel and representation to low-income people
- Call 510-250-5720 or 925-219-3325
- Visit www.baylegal.org



Fair Housing Act

- The Fair Housing Act (FHA), Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, is a federal law that protects people from housing discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, seeking financial assistance and in other housing-related transactions.,
- The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and handicap (disability).
- For a more complete explanation of the Fair Housing Act visit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at www.hud.gov.

California Fair Housing Laws

- California state laws further prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship, sexual orientation, immigration status, primary language, marital status, source of income, or any other arbitrary reason. Additional protections against 'source of income' discrimination are afforded by California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). While a housing provider may require tenants demonstrate sufficient income to pay the rent, it is illegal to deny an applicant due to sources of income other than employment (alimony, social security, welfare, etc.).
- In 2020, the California legislature expanded the definition of income to include federal, state, and local public assistance and housing subsidies, including Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as Section 8). This means that landlords in California are required to accept Section 8 and other forms of rental assistance and may not deny an applicant because they receive a rental subsidy.



CENTRO LEGAL

- Legal consultations
- Legal representation
- Call 510-437-1554
- Visit Centrolegal.org

OTHER SERVICES

- Dial 2-1-1
- Visit www.211contracost.a.org to access information regarding numerous individual and family resources.
- Legal Services of Northern California www.lsnc.net



Who must comply?

- Landlords
- Property management companies
- Homeowners associations
- Public housing authorities
- Real estate agents
- Home sellers
- Property insurers
- Builders
- Mortgage lenders
- Tenant screening companies
- Consumer reporting agencies
- Others

Obligations as a Housing Provider

- As a housing provider, it is your responsibility to ensure that housing provided is equitably accessible under federal, state, and local laws. This applies to all actions associated with the provision of housing, including but not limited to the advertising, listing of the rental property, the application process, and evaluations of applicants.
- Additionally, the application process and requirements cannot differ between potential tenants (i.e. requiring a background check for one tenant but not another). When screening applicants, the process must remain objective through neutral evaluations which are consistent between all applicants. Failure to do so may be a violation of local, state and/or federal Fair Housing laws.

Additional Resources

For Landlords:

- [Resources for Housing Providers](#) (California Civil Rights Department)
- [Fair Housing Best Practices for Avoiding Discrimination](#) (American Apartment Owners Association)

For Tenants:

- [Know your Housing Rights](#)(California Civil Rights Department)
- [California Tenants – A Guide to Residential Tenants’ and Landlords’ Rights and Responsibilities](#) (California Department of Real Estate)

Learn more about Fair Housing or file a complaint:

- [California Civil Rights Department \(CRD\) - 800-884-1684](#)
- [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - 800-669-9777](#)

For additional information and links to additional resources please scan the QR Code:

