



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



Housing and Community Services

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer Street NE, Suite B
Salem, OR 97301-1266
(503) 986-2000



FAX (503) 986-2020
TTY (503) 986-2100

www.ohcs.oregon.gov

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Contact: Lisa Joyce, lisa.joyce@state.or.us, (503) 986-0951
Alyssa Cudmore, alyssa.cudmore@state.or.us, (503) 473-1050

Survey to identify barriers to fair housing choice

SALEM – Oregon Housing and Community Services and Oregon Business Development Department recently initiated an electronic survey to gather information from the public about barriers to fair housing choice in Oregon.

Every five years, the agencies develop a state Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice. Under fair housing law, states that receive federal housing dollars must actively work to eliminate housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status or disability.

OHCS Director Victor Merced said, “The information we gather will help us achieve our vision that all Oregonians have access to the housing and services that meet their needs.” He encouraged wide participation in the survey, which is available online at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.

Survey responses are anonymous.

The results of the survey will help OHCS and OBDD create an action plan to eliminate housing discrimination and expand equal housing opportunities. The plan will address all aspects of fair housing, including emergency shelter and transitional housing, rental and real estate sales transactions, lending, advertising, and any treatment or policies adversely affecting access to housing programs.

In addition to the survey, state agencies must conduct a comprehensive review of laws, rules, policies and practices, and how they affect the location, availability, and accessibility of housing, and how conditions, both private and public, affect fair housing choice. The results will allow policy makers to target education of property owners, draft new state policies, and allocate resources where the barriers are the greatest.

“Participation in the survey only takes a few minutes,” said Merced. “Participants will help us locate those parts of the state where barriers to fair housing are most prevalent.”

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