



Fair Housing Policy

1. Purpose and Vision

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act establishes federal policy for providing fair housing throughout the United States. The intent of Title VIII is to assure equal housing opportunities for all citizens. Furthermore, the City of Bloomington, as a recipient of federal community development funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, is obligated to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

The City of Bloomington strives to advance its commitment to inclusion and equity by developing this Fair Housing Policy to further the goal of creating a vibrant, safe, and healthy community where all residents will thrive.

2. Policy Statement

It is the policy and commitment of the City of Bloomington to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are available to all persons in all housing opportunities and development activities funded by the City regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, creed, familial status, national origin, or disability. This is done through external policies to provide meaningful access to all constituents as well as fair housing information and referral services; and through internal practices and procedures that promote fair housing and support the City's equity and inclusion goals.

3. External Practices

a. Intake and Referral

The City of Bloomington has designated the Staff Liaison to the Human Rights Commission as the responsible authority for the intake and referral of all fair housing complaints. At a minimum the Staff Liaison will be trained in state and federal fair housing laws, the complaint process for filing discrimination complaints, and the state and federal agencies that handle complaints. The date, time, and nature of the fair housing complaint and the referrals and information given will be fully documented. The Human Rights Commission will advise the City Council on City programs and policies affecting fair housing and raise issues and concerns where appropriate.

b. Meaningful Access

- i. **Online Information.** The City of Bloomington will continue to display information about fair housing prominently on its website. The website will continue to include links to various fair housing resources, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and others as well as links to state and federal fair housing complaint forms. In addition, the City will post the following documents on its website:
 1. Reasonable Accommodation Policy;
 2. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Policy;
 3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy regarding access to City services; and
 4. The State of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan.

- ii. **In-Person Information.** The City of Bloomington will provide in-person fair housing information including:
 1. A list of fair housing enforcement agencies;
 2. Frequently asked questions regarding fair housing law; and
 3. Fair housing complaint forms for enforcement agencies

- c. **Languages.** The City of Bloomington is committed to providing information in the native language of its residents. The City of Bloomington will provide information in languages other than English as described in its LEP Policy.

4. **Internal Practices**

The City of Bloomington commits to the following steps to promote awareness and competency regarding fair housing issues in all of its government functions.

- a. **Staff and Officials Training.** The City will continue to train its staff and officials on fair housing considerations.
- b. **Housing Analysis.** The City will review its housing periodically to examine the affordability of both rental and owner-occupied housing to inform future City actions.
- c. **Code Analysis.** The City will review its municipal code periodically, with specific focus on ordinances related to zoning, building, and occupancy standards, to identify any potential for disparate impact or treatment.
- d. **Project Planning and Analysis.** City planning functions and development review will consider housing issues, including whether potential projects may perpetuate segregation or lead to displacement of protected classes.
- e. **Community Engagement.** The City will seek input from underrepresented populations in the community. Conversations regarding fair housing, development, zoning, and land use changes may be facilitated by the City.
- f. **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.** As a recipient of federal funds, the City agrees to participate in the Regional Analysis of Impediments, as organized by the regional Fair Housing Implementation Council (FHIC), an ad hoc coalition of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement jurisdictions and

others working together to affirmatively further fair housing. The City will review the recommendations from the analysis for potential integration into City planning documents, including the Consolidated Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and other related documents.

Adopted by the City Council on August 6, 2018