

## **News Release – For Immediate Release**

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### **MONTGOMRY COUNTY FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL RECEIPT OF HUD AWARD**

The Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County has been selected for funding under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) Private Enforcement Initiative component (PEI). The Council was awarded \$206,489 to combat housing discrimination in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area which includes Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Chester, and Philadelphia counties.

The project will focus on monitoring, investigation, and enforcement of fair housing violations in the sales and rental of housing, concentrating on the Hispanic and African American communities. Much attention will also be given to increasing access to rental and home buying opportunities for persons with disabilities by enforcing design and construction guidelines and accessibility compliance in new and existing multifamily housing. The Council will also increase opportunities for minority home ownership by providing ongoing fair housing education for consumers as well as for credit counseling agencies and first time home buyer programs. A cornerstone of the project is that it is a collaborative effort to provide education, establish permanent linkages and formalize a referral system for fair housing complaints with community based groups.

"Today's announcement is outstanding news for the region. This is the first time that all the private fair housing groups in the area have joined forces to promote fair housing and combat housing discrimination."

The Council will carry out the activities with the help of Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia and the Fair Housing Action Center at the Tenants Action Group, and numerous community partners including Accion CLAMO, CEIBA, Liberty Resources, Inc.

For more information regarding the Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County, please visit our website at [www.fairhousingmontco.org](http://www.fairhousingmontco.org). For a complete listing of all FHIP grantees, go to [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

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