

# hud **NEWS**

Department of Housing and Urban Development – Alphonso Jackson, Secretary  
Office of Public Affairs, Philadelphia, PA

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## **FOR RELEASE**

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### **THE FAIR HOUSING COUNCILS OF SUBURBAN PHILADELPHIA AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY AWARDED \$545,000 IN HUD GRANTS TO HELP FIGHT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION**

SWARTHMORE – The Fair Housing Councils of Suburban Philadelphia and Montgomery County today received two grants totaling \$545,000. The Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia was awarded \$275,000 and the Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County received \$270,000 to help fund their investigations and enforcement of alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act and other state and local fair housing laws.

The two organizations were selected by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which awarded \$18.1 million in grants to 102 groups in 85 cities throughout the nation to help reduce housing discrimination.

"These grants will help us continue our efforts to educate the public and housing industry about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act," said Guy L. Ciarrocchi, HUD's Regional Director. "No one should be denied the opportunity to live where they want because of how they look, or the religion they practice, or because they have a disability."

The FHCSF was awarded a private enforcement initiative grant, which will reduce housing discrimination in Greater Philadelphia through enforcement activities and provide education to nonprofits, industry and public officials and consumers on fair housing law with subcontractors Lutheran Children and Family Services of Eastern Pennsylvania and Self-Determination Housing Project of Pennsylvania.

"Despite their individual situations, all of the people served by this grant share the common concern of gaining access to the jobs, schooling and resources they need to provide a better life for themselves and their families," stated James Berry, Executive Director of FHCSF. "More proactively, our fair housing education activities will support a long-term goal of ensuring that the region fulfills the mission of the Fair Housing Act by growing into vibrant, diverse communities where all neighbors are tolerated and respected, regardless of background, family status or appearance."

The FHCMC received funding for a second year of a 3-year performance based private enforcement initiative grant to continue its fair housing work in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. The FHCMC, in conjunction with its partners, Accion Comunal Latino Americana de Montgomery County (ACLAMO), Liberty Resources and Ceiba, will continue to combat discriminatory housing practices by conducting systemic and complaint based testing, advocate for victims of discrimination, file fair

housing complaints, and assist people with disabilities in obtaining legally required reasonable accommodations.

“HUD funding for enforcement allows us to continue our work in eliminating illegal housing discrimination in the region,” said Elizabeth Albert, Executive Director of the FHCMC.

HUD received applications from 268 groups seeking grants, a 7% increase over fiscal year 2005, out of that group, 102 winners were chosen based on a number of criteria, which included the demonstration of results and program evaluation. Grants were awarded to fair housing organizations in the following states:

Alabama - \$923,876	Montana - \$99,987
Arizona - \$270,144	Nebraska - \$372,277
Arkansas- \$34,088	Nevada – 203,629
California - \$2,350,947	New Jersey - \$375,000
Colorado - \$100,000	New Mexico - \$149,721
District of Columbia - \$149,080	New York – \$986-896
Delaware - \$50,000	North Carolina - \$88,022
Florida - \$1,024,972	North Dakota - \$214,769
Georgia - \$94,950	Ohio –\$1,293,905
Hawaii - \$275,000	Okalahoma – \$274,766
Idaho - \$80,961	Oregon –\$368,678
Illinois - \$1,736,402	Pennsylvania - \$1,021,352
Kansas - \$99,926	Rhode Island - \$100,000
Kentucky - \$205,258	South Carolina - \$ 99,992
Louisiana - \$475,000	Tennessee - \$275,000
Maryland - \$99,716	Texas - \$1,017,855
Massachusetts - \$647,210	Utah - \$77,310
Michigan - \$480,326	Virginia- \$60,415
Minnesota - \$99,937	Vermont - \$100,000
Missouri - \$100,000	Washington - \$650,000
Mississippi - \$597,634	Wisconsin - \$374,996

FHEO and its partners in the Fair Housing Assistance Program investigate approximately 9,000 housing discrimination complaints annually. People who believe they are the victims of housing discrimination should contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 (voice), 800-927-9275 (TTY). Additional information is available at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing). Stay on top of the most up-to-date news regarding the Fair Housing Act by signing up for the FHEO RSS Feed at [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm).

NOTE: A list of all Pennsylvania grant recipients is available on the HUD website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/partners/FHIP/FY2006FHIP.pdf>

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