

Fair Housing is Your Right!

Fair housing is the right to rent, buy, or finance housing free from discrimination. People who are looking for housing should only be considered based on qualifications, such as ability to pay or rental history.



If you have been treated unfairly because of your...

RACE • COLOR • NATIONAL ORIGIN • RELIGION • FAMILY STATUS • SEX
DISABILITY • AGE • MARITAL STATUS • SEXUAL ORIENTATION • GENDER IDENTITY
RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE • ABUSE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING

... when renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, obtaining housing insurance, seeking housing assistance, or in other housing-related activities, then you have experienced illegal discrimination.

Housing discrimination is against the law.

Discrimination is not always obvious and can take many forms. It may happen when a landlord refuses to rent you an apartment, tells you it is unavailable when it is vacant, steers you toward a different location, or if the terms and conditions of your lease are different from those of the landlord's other tenants. Illegal discrimination can also happen in advertisements.



Have you been treated unfairly? To file a complaint, contact:

- Vermont Human Rights Commission
(802) 828-1625, (800) 416-2010
(877) 294-9200 (TDD)
hrc.vermont.gov
- Vermont Legal Aid / Legal Services Vermont
(800) 889-2047
vtlawhelp.org
- U.S. Attorney's Office, District of VT
justice.gov/usao-vt/civil-division
usavt.ContactUs1@usdoj.gov
- United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
(800) 827-5005
hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/online-complaint

Fair Housing Project of CVOEO:

- Learn more about your rights, access resources, schedule workshops & trainings, and join **Thriving Communities**, a statewide partnership dedicated to promoting housing affordability & inclusiveness: (802) 660-3456 x 106, fhp@cvoeo.org
cvoeo.org/fhp
- **Fair Housing Handbooks** available in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, Nepali, & Somali: cvoeo.org/FHP-resources

Tenant Rights & Resources:

- CVOEO Vermont Tenants
Hotline: (802) 864-0099
Resources: cvoeo.org/vermonttenants
Rent Right Program: cvoeo.org/rentright



Home Matters

Housing is a basic need that we all share. Access to good quality, safe, and affordable homes is critical to individual and family stability and health. It determines our ease of getting to work, where our children go to school, access to healthcare, and what kind of physical environment we live in. Having enough quality affordable homes for everyone also promotes economic growth and well-being. Communities that welcome a diverse range of residents are more vibrant, resilient, and help fulfill the promise of equal housing opportunity for all.

Housing in Vermont

The state has a housing shortage and before the COVID crisis, more than a third of Vermonters were paying 30% or more of their incomes on housing, with more than half of those paying 50% or more. The pandemic has only made this worse. Meanwhile, Vermont has the oldest housing stock in the country and at least 19,000 households live in homes with serious quality issues. And although many of the state's thousands of people



experiencing homelessness were able to access temporary lodging during the pandemic, there is not a long-term solution. In this tight housing market, people of color, people with children, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, and others face a higher risk for discrimination.

April is Fair Housing Month

Each April we celebrate the 1968 passage of the Fair Housing Act with a series of public education and art events to raise awareness about housing discrimination in Vermont and the positive role that inclusive, affordable housing plays in thriving communities. These fun and informative activities are coordinated by the Fair Housing Project of CVOEO, in collaboration with Vermont Department of Libraries, Vermont Legal Aid, Vermont Human Rights Commission, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, and other partners.

Check out the HeART & Home community art gallery and event recordings at fairhousingmonthvt.org

Housing Resources

For renters:

- CVOEO Vermont Tenants Statewide Hotline:* cvoeo.org/vtt, vttenants@cvoeo.org, (802) 864-0099
- Vermont Emergency Rental Assistance Program* for those experiencing financial difficulties due to COVID-19: erap.vsha.org

For homeowners:

- Homeownership counseling, rehab services, disaster assistance, credit & finance, home loans & grants: NeighborWorks Alliance of VT: vthomeownership.org
- Homeownership Assistance Program for those who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19: vermonthap.vhfa.org
- CVOEO Mobile Home Program & Free Statewide Hotline: (802) 660-3455 x 204, cvoeo.org/mhp

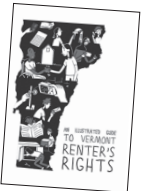
Emergency shelter and other support:

- Contact VT Economic Services: (800) 479-6151, dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact-us/districts
- For shelter or other resources & services after hours or on the weekend, call the 24-hour Vermont 211* hotline by dialing 2-1-1 or go to vermont211.org
- If you are at risk of homelessness, falling behind on your rent, or need other housing supports, contact your regional Community Action Agency: vermontcap.org
- COVID-19 housing benefits & legal updates:* vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates



Definitive Guide to Renting in VT:
cvoeo.org/fileLibrary/file_212.pdf

Illustrated Guide to Renters Rights:*
cvoeo.org/client_media/files/HAP/illustrated-renters-rights.pdf



Looking for more information about your community?

- **Vermont Housing Data:** Community profiles and town/county/state data on population, income, households, employment, homeownership, rental housing, housing needs, and more: housingdata.org
- **Vermont 2020-2025 Housing Needs Assessment:** Includes fact sheets on demographics, housing stock, race, homelessness and more: accd.vermont.gov/housing/plans-data-rules/needs-assessment
- **Census data and population indicators:** uvm.edu/crs/vermont-indicators-online
- **Directory of affordable housing properties in VT:** housingdata.org/find-rental-housing



For a deeper dive into Fair Housing issues Join us online!

www.cvoeo.org/fhp | fairhousingmonthvt.org

thrivingcommunitiesvt.org/news-blog

[f](https://www.facebook.com/thrivingcommunitiesvt) [@thrivingcommunitiesvt](https://www.instagram.com/thrivingcommunitiesvt)

[t](https://twitter.com/VTFairHousing) VTFairHousing | CVOEO

* Translated material/interpretation available.

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