



State of Connecticut
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Central Office ~ 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Promoting Equality and Justice for all People

CHRO PARTNERS WITH HUD TO END HOUSING DISCRIMINATION
Feds Award State Over \$227,000 in Grants

(Hartford) The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is partnering with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to stop housing discrimination.

The four grants awarded are:

\$76,000 to hire an Investigator to look into systemic claims of housing discrimination against landlords, condominium associations and housing authorities within the State of Connecticut.

\$83,000 will be used to hire a durational Human Rights Attorney I to prosecute systemic housing discrimination complaints found by the investigator.

\$59,000 will partner with the Quinnipiac University School of Law to perform audit testing and complaint based testing for the CHRO

\$8,600 will partner with the National Center for Lesbian Rights to host a day-long training on HUD's new equal access rule. The event will target LGBT community members, fair housing advocates, and housing providers.

"This is a triumph for CHRO" announced Tanya Hughes, interim executive director of the Commission, We have long left federal money on the table, but no more. As Governor Malloy has urged we are now aggressively pursuing all funds possible to maximize our mission and minimize state expenditures."

The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities was the first state government civil rights agency in the United States of America established in 1943 as the Inter-racial Commission. Today the agency's mission is to eliminate discrimination through civil and human rights laws. The CHRO investigates and enforces the laws against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation and credit.

For Immediate Release: November 5, 2013

WITH ATTACHMENT

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This is to let you know that HUD has approved the four 2013 CCHRO partnership project proposals listed below. We will contact you shortly regarding negotiation of the amended 2013 FHAP Cooperative Agreement, final Statement of Work (SOW), budget, and payment schedule for these projects.

Partner	Amount	Summary of Project
Individual to be hired	\$76,005.36	CCHRO will use partnership funds to hire a skilled Human Rights and Opportunities Representative (Investigator) to investigate systemic claims of housing discrimination against landlords, condominium associations and housing authorities within the State of Connecticut. This qualified individual will conduct research into complex housing matters and research issues of conflict in state and federal law dealing with disability discrimination and reasonable accommodations. This durational investigator will also conduct a complex investigation into allegations of discrimination by a large housing development in Greater Hartford. The individual will assist with the processing of backlogged cases currently pending with the agency and work on a minimum of 15 backlogged cases or complex issue cases in addition to the complex investigation into the allegations of discrimination against the housing complex located in the Greater Hartford area.
Individual to be hired	\$83,444.00	The Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will use partnership funds to hire a durational Human Rights Attorney I to prosecute systemic housing discrimination complaints and to assist with the prosecution of complex housing cases filed in the Superior court in Connecticut. Further, the Human Rights Attorney I will be responsible for conducting legal research and prepare memoranda of law related to fair housing issues. Further, the individual will perform a variety of legal work related to the enforcement of the state fair housing laws including but not limited to: the presentation of complaints at public hearing; representing the Commission in appeals of final decisions by Hearing Referees dismissing housing claims, injunctions and enforcement actions; monitoring legislative activity related to enforcement of housing laws; and contributing to the drafting of legislative proposals to address fair housing needs. Further, this Attorney will work closely with the Housing Unit Investigator assigned to conduct investigations into systemic complaints of discrimination and monitor the progress and legal soundness of the investigation.
Quinnipiac Law School	\$59,000.00	CCHRO will partner with the Quinnipiac University School of Law to perform audit testing and complaint based testing for the CCHRO, in an effort to eliminate discriminatory housing practices in the state of Connecticut. CCHRO has complaints that have been filed with the agency, and/or inquiries that have been made with the agency where testing needs to be performed in order to gather evidence as to whether the Landlord is engaging in discriminatory housing practices. Complaint based testing will allow the agency to gather concrete evidence needed to resolve housing discriminatory practices complaints filed with CCHRO. Further, there are landlords, housing authorities, condominium associations, etc. that are potentially engaging in illegal housing discrimination and systemic or audit based testing would greatly enhance the mission of the CHRO to eliminate illegal housing practices. It also allows an



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		<p>opportunity for Quinnipiac Law students to assist the state with eliminating discrimination by being testers. CCHRO and the Law School endeavor to perform systemic testing/audit testing on housing providers who are potentially engaged in exclusionary housing practices. Tester training will be done after consultation with Suffolk University Law School.</p>
<p>National Center for Lesbian Rights</p>	<p>\$8,687.50</p>	<p>CCHRO will partner with the National Center for Lesbian Rights to host a day-long training on HUD’s new equal access rule. The event will target LGBT community members, fair housing advocates, and housing providers and will have the following goals: 1) To publicize the HUD Equal Access Rule and the work HUD has done on behalf of LGBT community; 2) To educate members of the LGBT community of new protections under this rule and educate housing providers and advocates of the new obligations this rule creates; 3) To educate local housing providers and fair housing advocates of the unique fair housing needs of the LGBT community and to provide the participants with the resources available to them to protect their right to fair housing in Connecticut. This seminar will be targeted towards meeting the specific needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities in a protected environment; 4) To allow an opportunity for individuals who believe they are the victims of illegal discrimination to file complaints with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.</p>

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