

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

FAIR HOUSING HEARING BOARD
FY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The Fair Housing Hearing Board of Raleigh is dedicated to promoting fair housing practices, ensuring compliance with fair housing laws, and educating the community on their rights and responsibilities under these laws. The following budget narrative outlines the financial requirements for the Board's key activities and initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Fair Housing Hearing Board works to improve public awareness of the City's Fair Housing Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in housing opportunities on the basis of race, color, religion, family status, disability, national origin or sex.



ISSUES AND GOALS FOR FY 2025

In 2025, we plan to host a fair housing hearing board conference that provides information through key leaders in the city; uplifts the work of ongoing projects that promote housing fairness and equity; and expand

our community outreach efforts to provide opportunities for authentic and engaging listening to Raleigh residents who are experiencing housing justice issues.

Events

List or describe events that will be hosted by the board or commission

- **Annual Conference:** The annual conference is a pivotal event for the Fair Housing Hearing Board, providing a platform for stakeholders, including community members, housing advocates, legal professionals, and government officials, to discuss and address fair housing issues. We will begin planning this event in August 2024 and have everything set up by February 2025. The event will take place in April of 2025. The cost for the event is \$7,000.
- **Tabling at Events:** We will aim to show up to the table at three events where we can distribute information and share about the Fair Housing Hearing Board. We will select these events as a group the month prior to the event at our regular meetings. There is no cost associated.

Education and Outreach

Community Outreach: We will work with existing institutions in the city to promote fair housing policy and educate residents on their rights. This year, we plan to coordinate with faith communities and local CACs to distribute information.

Printing Housing Information: Providing printed materials is a key component of our strategy to educate the community about fair housing rights and responsibilities. We will include Brochures, flyers, and posters on fair housing; Detailed guides and manuals on fair housing laws; and Translation of materials into multiple languages to cater to diverse communities. All of these will be created in conjunction with legal aid and approved by the appropriate city leadership before distribution. These printed resources are vital for reaching individuals who may not have access to digital information and ensuring that everyone in the community has access to the information they need.

Upcoming Projects

List or describe upcoming or planned projects for the board or commission

Project	Goal	Target Date
Annual Conference	<p>The annual conference is a pivotal event for the Fair Housing Hearing Board, providing a platform for stakeholders, including community members, housing advocates, legal professionals, and government officials, to discuss and address fair housing issues. The allocated budget covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue rental • Speaker fees and travel expenses • Marketing and promotional materials • Catering and refreshments • Conference materials and supplies 	April 2025

	<p>This conference serves as a significant opportunity for knowledge sharing, networking, and developing strategies to combat housing discrimination in Raleigh.</p> <p>\$5,000 will come from Housing and Neighborhoods.</p>	
<p>Community Outreach Initiative</p>	<p>Effective community engagement is essential to ensure that residents are informed about their rights under fair housing laws. The budget for outreach will be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting informational sessions in various neighborhoods • Distributing educational materials at community events • Utilizing social media and local media channels to disseminate information • Engaging with community leaders and organizations to broaden the reach <p>This outreach initiative aims to raise awareness and provide valuable information to those most affected by housing discrimination.</p>	<p>Sept 2024– Sept 2025</p>
<p>Board Development</p>	<p>To maintain a high level of competence and effectiveness, the Fair Housing Hearing Board will conduct three training sessions throughout the year. These sessions will involve inviting experts to provide insights on fair housing laws, mediation techniques, and best practices. Board training budget includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker fees and travel expenses • Training materials • Refreshments for attendees <p>These trainings are crucial for equipping board members with the latest knowledge and skills necessary to handle fair housing cases efficiently and fairly.</p>	<p>Year Round</p>

<p>Printing Information</p>	<p>Providing printed materials is a key component of our strategy to educate the community about fair housing rights and responsibilities. The budget allocated for printing will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures, flyers, and posters • Detailed guides and manuals on fair housing laws • Translation of materials into multiple languages to cater to diverse communities • Distribution costs for getting materials into the hands of residents <p>These printed resources are vital for reaching individuals who may not have access to digital information and ensuring that everyone in the community has access to the information they need.</p>	<p>June 2025</p>
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Proposed Budget

From Council	\$10,000
Housing and Neighborhoods Community Development Block Grant	\$5,000
Total	\$15,000

Issue: The lack of distribution channels for information, lack of awareness about housing rights, and lack of discussion about housing equity in affordable housing projects.

Goal: Create a network of interconnected organizations that are equipped to distribute information in their spheres of influence, and empower leaders to address issues of housing rights and regulations.

Strategy: Create a citywide manual and printed material that can be distributed, show up at ongoing events with the target audience and marginalized populations of city residents, and create a feedback loop for the city council through the fair housing board in conjunction with local leaders and liaisons (informed housing advocates, faith leaders, city CAC members, etc).

BOARD OR COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chris West, Chair

Cassandra Heckstall, Secretary

Astrid Taylor, Treasurer

Mary Hall, Board Member

Chalisa Williams, Board Member

Octavia Rainey, Board Member

Sophia Lindo, Staff Liaison