# What Is Fair Housing?

Presented by
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

LIHS gratefully acknowledges the support of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing Initiatives Program.

### Long Island Housing Services' Mission:

Elimination of unlawful housing discrimination and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.





It is U.S. policy and law to promote equitable housing choice and eliminate segregation.

### What is Fair Housing?

Fair housing means that
all people have the right to
live in the housing of their choice
that they can afford
free from discrimination.\*

\*Discrimination: Denial of equal treatment and opportunity





### What is Fair Housing?

Fair housing laws ensure equal access and mandate that people have equal housing opportunities and not be subjected to discrimination based upon legally protected categories.



# Who is protected under the Fair Housing laws



# Everyone is protected under the Fair Housing laws



# FAIR HOUSING laws exist on 3 levels:

U.S. government

New York State

County



# It is against <u>Federal</u> (U.S. Government) Fair Housing Law to discriminate in housing because of a person's:

- Race
- Color
- National Origin
- Religion
- Sex
- Disability
- Familial Status





# Sexual Harassment under the Fair Housing Act

### Discrimination based on sex includes a protection against sexual harassment:

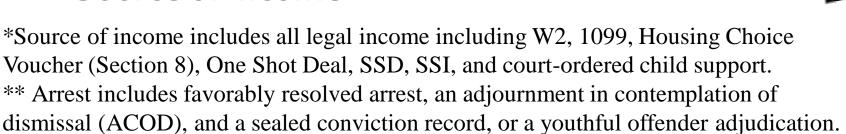
- Deliberate or repeated unwelcome comments
- Gestures or physical contact that create a hostile environment

Example: Asking for sexual favors in exchange for an apartment, in lieu of rent, offers of reduced rent or extra amenities, etc.

# In NEW YORK state, it is also against the law to discriminate in housing because of a person's:

- Marital status
- Sexual orientation
- Gender Identity
- Gender Expression
- Source of Income\*

- Military Status
- Age (over 18)
- Creed
- Arrest\*\*



In addition to Federal protections on the basis of Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex, Disability, and Familial Status.

# In <u>Suffork</u> County, it is also against the law to discriminate in housing because of a person's:

- Group Identity\*
- Veteran Status

- Status as a DomesticViolence Victim
- \*Group Identity includes actual or perceived:
- Age (over 18)
- Alienage or Citizenship Status

- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Military Status

In addition to **Federal** (Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex, Disability, and Familial Status) and **New York State** (Marital Status, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Age (over 18), Military Status, Creed, Source of Income, and Arrest) protections.

## How Do You Protect Your Fair Housing Rights?

Anyone who believes he or she has been discriminated against can file a complaint.

If you want to discuss options, or obtain help from a professional Fair Housing advocate...

Contact Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

(631) 567-5111 ext. 375

info@LIFairHousing.org

Si usted cree que ha sido discriminado al buscar vivienda, llame a Long Island Housing Services al 631-567-5111 ext. 378 para hablar con un investigador o defensor de vivienda justa capacitado. También puede enviar un correo electrónico a <a href="mailto:info@LIFairHousing.org">info@LIFairHousing.org</a>.

### Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

631-567-5111 ext. 375 info@LIFairHousing.org

#### **Federal**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development New York FHEO Office 26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532 New York, NY 10278-0068 800-669-9777

### **Nassau County**

Nassau County Commission on Human Rights 240 Old County Road Mineola, NY 11501 (516) 571-3662

#### **New York State**

N.Y. State Division of Human Rights One Fordham Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Bronx, NY 10458 1-888-392-3644

### **Suffolk County**

Suffolk County
Human Rights Commission
100 Veterans Memorial Highway Suite #1
Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 853-5480