



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

H-GAC Reminds Residents to Stay Informed about Their Rights under the Fair Housing Act

HOUSTON – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) recognizes April as Fair Housing Month and reminds homebuyers and renters to be aware of their rights under the Fair Housing Act.

National Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing because of race or color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. President Lyndon Johnson signed the act into law on April 11, 1968 as part of the larger Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act) applies to rental properties, properties for sale, and mortgage lending.

According to the Fair Housing Act, real estate advertisements may not exclude anyone protected under the law. Sellers or landlords should make homes available, negotiate prices, and provide the same services for everyone listed in the Fair Housing Act. Also, mortgage lenders are required to follow the law when making loans, setting repayment terms, and appraising property. Fair housing rights ensure people can exercise their right to fair housing without threats, coercion, or intimidation.

In 2020, H-GAC developed the Regional Housing Plan to support local governments in the 13-county region in providing a range of housing options that will sustain the needs of the residents they serve. More information about the Regional Housing Plan and about Fair Housing Act information and resources applicable to the region are available at www.h-gac.com/regional-housing-coordination.

Additional information regarding the Fair Housing Act can be found on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) website at www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

People who feel their rights have been violated should file complaints with HUD. While complainants have up to one year to report the alleged violation, HUD recommends filing the complaint sooner to expedite the process.

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit www.h-gac.com.