

**City of Richfield
Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Fair Housing Policy**

1. Purpose/Vision

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act establishes federal policy for providing fair housing throughout the United States. The intent of Title VIII is to ensure equal housing opportunities for all citizens. Furthermore, the City of Richfield, as a recipient of federal funds, is obligated to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

The City of Richfield strives to advance its commitment to inclusion and equity by developing this Fair Housing Policy to further the goal of creating a community where all residents will thrive.

2. Fair Housing Policy Statement

It is the policy and commitment of the City of Richfield to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are available to all persons in all housing opportunities and development activities funded by the city regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistances, familial status, national origin, or disability. This is done through external policies to provide meaningful access to fair housing information and referral services for all constituents and through internal practices and procedures that promote fair housing throughout the community.

3. External Practices

a. Intake and Referral

The City of Richfield has designated the Multi-Family Housing Specialist as the responsible authority for the intake and referral of all fair housing complaints. At a minimum, the Multi-Family Housing Specialist will be familiar with state and federal fair housing laws, the complaint process for filing discrimination complaints, and the state and federal agencies that handle complaints.

The date, time, and nature of the fair housing complaint and the referrals and information given will be fully documented.

The Multi-Family Housing Specialist will advise the City Council on City programs and policies affecting fair housing and identify issues and concerns where appropriate.

b. Meaningful Access

- i. **Online Information.** The City of Richfield will display information about fair housing prominently on its website. The website will include links to various fair housing resources, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and others, as well as links to state and federal fair housing complaint forms.
- ii. **In-Person Information.** The City of Richfield will provide fair housing information to anyone requesting such information at the city offices. Information provided will include:
 1. A list of fair housing enforcement agencies;
 2. *Fair Housing: Equal Opportunity for All* information booklet; and
 3. Fair housing complaint forms for enforcement agencies.
- iii. **Languages.** The City of Richfield is committed to providing information in the native language of its residents. The City will provide information in languages other than English as needed.

4. Internal Practices

The City of Richfield commits to the following steps to promote awareness and competency of fair housing issues in all of its government functions.

- a. **Staff and Officials Training.** The City will access available training to train its staff and housing officials on fair housing considerations.

- b. Housing Analysis.** The City will review its housing inventory and community needs periodically to examine the availability and affordability of both rental and owner-occupied housing for all residents in order to have such information available for future City actions.
- c. Code Analysis.** The City will review its municipal code periodically, to identify impediments to accessing housing and any potential for disparate impact or treatment.
- d. Project Planning and Analysis.** City planning functions and development review will consider whether potential projects may perpetuate segregation or lead to displacement of protected classes, and will apply the City's Inclusionary Housing Policy in the case of developments seeking financial assistance from the City.
- e. Community Engagement.** The City will seek community input, particularly from underrepresented populations in the community, with regard to fair housing issues, development, zoning, and land use changes facilitated by the City.
- f. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.** As a subrecipient of federal funds, the City will, as requested by Hennepin County as the entitlement jurisdiction, participate in the Regional Analysis of Impediments, as organized by the regional Fair Housing Implementation Council (FHIC), an ad hoc coalition of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement jurisdictions and others working together to affirmatively further fair housing. The City will review the recommendations from the analysis for potential integration into City planning documents, including the Comprehensive Plan and other applicable documents.

Adopted:

This 11th day of December, 2018 by the Richfield City Council.

Mayor

Secretary

This ____ day of _____, 2018 by the Richfield Housing and
Redevelopment Authority.

Chair

Secretary

This ____ day of _____, 2019 by the Richfield Economic
Development Authority.

President

Secretary