



Federal and State Compliance Related to COVID-19

Citizen Participation and Public Hearings

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides flexibility for CDBG grantees with CDBG grants for coronavirus response. In-person public hearings are not required. Grantees may meet public hearing requirements with virtual public hearings if:

1. National/local health authorities recommend social distancing and limiting public gatherings for public health reasons.
2. Virtual hearings provide reasonable notification and access for citizens in accordance with the grantee's certifications, timely responses from local officials to all citizen questions and issues, and public access to all questions and responses.

Gov. Whitmer issued Executive Orders [2020-21](#), [2020-42](#), and [2020-59](#) to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. The governor also issued Executive Orders [2020-15](#) and [2020-48](#) to institute temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings and temporary relief from monthly meetings. This would be applicable to CDBG required public hearings, resolutions, and bid openings.

Construction Industry

Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order [2020-70](#) on May 1 to allow the construction industry and other outdoor enterprises to re-open as soon as May 7 as workers within these industries present a low risk of spreading the virus. Under the order, construction sites must adopt a set of best practices to protect their workers from infection.

Section 3

[Section 3](#) provides that employment, training, and contracting opportunities are made available to low-moderate income persons and Section 3 businesses. The Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) has provided [Section 3 Q&A guidance](#) relative to COVID-19. You may also view the [Section 3 Overview PDF](#) or visit hud.gov/section3.

Additional Resources

Access additional resources by visiting michiganbusiness.org/covid19.

Visit michigan.gov/coronavirus to find valuable resources for employers, workers, residents and communities and stay informed on Michigan's latest efforts to mitigate the impact of the virus on our state's residents and economy.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at <https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

Fair Housing Awareness

CDBG encourages grantees to get involved in fair housing initiatives in their community

At its core, **fair housing refers to the right of an individual to live wherever their means allow**. Let's dive a little deeper with a couple definitions:

- **Fair housing** prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, purchase, leasing, financing and/or advertising of housing.
- **Fair housing choice** means that all persons have the same access to housing choices regardless of age, marital status, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or familial status.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, requires that anyone receiving funding from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](https://www.hud.gov), including states and Units of General Local Governments (UGLGs), which is another name for a city, county, town, parish or village, **engage in activities that affirmatively further fair housing**.



What is AFFH?

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) is HUD's way of helping communities provide equality in housing. Specifically, AFFH means taking meaningful actions that address significant disparities in housing needs and in access to opportunity, including:

- Replacing segregated living patterns with truly integrated and balanced living patterns
- Transforming racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty into areas of opportunity
- Fostering and maintaining compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws

The duty to affirmatively further fair housing extends to all program participants' activities and generally takes form in complying with, promoting, and publicizing fair housing and civil rights laws.

AFFH Requirements

UGLGs receiving any Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, regardless of award or project type, must develop a method for documenting efforts to promote and monitor fair housing activities. UGLGs must also perform the following program requirements:

1. **Adopt a fair housing ordinance or certification**
2. **Create a fair housing plan** to identify at least one additional activity the UGLG will undertake to further fair housing
3. **Develop a fair housing complaint process**

How to Engage in Furthering Fair Housing

Following are a few examples of how an UGLG may engage in activities to affirmatively further fair housing. The listed suggestions and materials are not mandatory; they are simply examples.



Printed Materials – An UGLG may publish, distribute and post these materials in a public location and/or share them on its social media streams

- [Fair Housing Act](#)
- [Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act \(Act 453 of 1976\)](#)
- [Michigan Department of Civil Rights Your guide to Fair Housing Brochure](#)
- [Su Guía para una Vivienda Justa \(Your Guide to Fair Housing - Spanish\)](#)
- [Fair Housing Resources \(map\)](#)
- [Fair Housing Month 2019 Poster](#)
- [LGBT Equal Access to HUD Programs Flyer](#)
- [Fair Housing Flyer – Sexual Harassment is Illegal](#)
- [Press Release: Justice Department Launches Public Awareness Campaign with Victims of Sexual Harassment in Housing](#)
- [Case: National Fair Housing Alliance Settles Lawsuit with Facebook](#)
- [Case: Justice Department Obtains \\$11.3 Million Settlement of Disability-Based Housing Discrimination](#)

Informational Videos – An UGLG may share these videos, including on its social media streams.

- ["Accents" \(Fair Housing PSA\)](#)
- ["Do You Still Like Me?" Fair Housing PSA \(English\)](#)
- [FHCWM Client Testimonial – disability-based discrimination](#)
- [American Sign Language Video: MDCR: Your Guide to Fair Housing](#)
- [Sexual Harassment in Housing is against the law!](#)
- [Preventing Sexual and Other Discriminatory Harassment in Housing \(Online Training\)](#)
- [Sexual Harassment in Housing](#)
- [Top 10 Fair Housing Mistakes](#)
- [National Fair Housing Alliance – Seven Days Documentary 50th Anniversary \(history of the Fair Housing Act\)](#)

Additional Fair Housing Resources

- [Michigan State Housing Development Authority \(MSHDA\)](#)
- [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\) Housing](#)
- [Michigan Department of Civil Rights \(MDCR\)](#)
- [HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity \(FHEO\)](#)

Contact Us For more information about MEDC's Community Development Block Grant program visit, miplace.org.