

## *How can I become a Fair Housing Tester for GHFHC?*

Before GHFHC can assign your first fair housing test, you must attend a training workshop where you will learn how to perform fair housing tests. GHFHC will provide you with training materials and make sure you are ready to act as an objective factfinder before you are given a test assignment.

### **How often will I test?**

Testers are on an on-call, as-needed basis. If a test arises and matches your profile, you will be called and asked to test. You may be asked to perform several tests one month and few or none the next. GHFHC seeks persons who are available to perform tests three to four hours during the week or occasionally on weekends.

### **How do I apply to be a Fair Housing Tester?**

Call the GHFHC Testing Coordinator at 713-641-3247 to apply. We will answer your questions about fair housing and will schedule you for a tester training session.

All people have the right to pursue the housing of their choice without experiencing unlawful discrimination. You can support this civil right by volunteering as a Fair Housing Tester.

The Greater Houston Fair Housing Center (GHFHC) is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of housing discrimination and the expansion of housing opportunities to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, familial status or other characteristic protected under state or local law. Since 1999, the GHFHC has been a full service, community based organization providing housing discrimination services to the metropolitan Houston area such as advocacy, education, outreach and enforcement.

### **Get Involved!**

Help us put an end to housing discrimination by becoming a tester. To learn more about testing you may contact us by phone or through our website (see "Get Involved" tab).

## **Greater Houston Fair Housing Center, Inc.**

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**Facebook.com/HoustonFairHousing  
www.HoustonFairHousing.org**

# **Fair Housing Tester Program**

**Fair Housing –  
It's not an option,  
it's the law!**



**(713) 641-FAIR**

**(713) 641-3247**



**Facebook.com/HoustonFairHousing  
www.HoustonFairHousing.org**

## WHAT...

### What is Fair Housing Testing?

Fair Housing Testing is a way of measuring the quality, quantity and content of information and customer given to potential renters, homebuyers, etc. by a housing provider based on a protected class under fair housing law. Testing can be a valuable tool to investigate housing market practices and to document illegal housing discrimination.

### What is Fair Housing Tester?

A tester is someone who poses as a home seeker— someone who is looking for a place to live. Testers go on an assignment, interact with a housing provider, and report their experiences to the Test Coordinator.



### What is a “Protected Class”?

The federal Fair Housing Act and Texas Fair Housing Act prohibit discrimination in housing (rental transactions, real estate transactions, brokerage services, home insurance, appraisal of housing) based upon protected classes — race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability.

## WHY...

### Why does the GHFHC conduct Testing?

GHFHC has a Fair Housing Enforcement contract with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. GHFHC is responsible for taking complaints of housing discrimination in the Houston metropolitan area and conducting tests of those complaints, when applicable, to gather information about the allegations made.

### Why is Fair Housing Testing important?

Fair housing testing is an invaluable tool in measuring the practices of housing providers relating to the Fair Housing Act. Some unlawful housing discrimination practices can *only* be discovered through fair housing testing. Information gathered through testing can be used as evidence to support a client’s administrative housing discrimination complaint with the Department of Housing and Urban Development or a private lawsuit against a housing provider. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized and affirmed the importance of testing in fighting housing discrimination.



## ALSO...

### Who can be a Fair Housing Tester?

Government regulations state that persons who have been convicted of a felony or a crime involving perjury may not serve as Fair Housing Testers. In addition, GHFHC must restrict persons who have specific biases or conflicts of interest, such as those involving employment, relatives, business competitors, or economic interests, from becoming Fair Housing Testers. Fair Housing Testers must undergo a criminal background check and certify under penalty of perjury that they meet the requirements outlined in the government regulations and must be at least 18 years old. GHFHC actively seeks person who can act as objective fact-finders to become Fair Housing Testers.

Testers are a diverse group of dependable, conscientious people of various racial and ethnic groups, men and women, over a broad range of ages with and without disabilities. Testers take on various roles and profiles.

