

## ANALYSIS

1. List and summarize any of the following that have not been resolved: a charge or letter of finding from HUD concerning a violation of a civil rights-related law, a cause determination from a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency concerning a violation of a state or local fair housing law, a letter of findings issued by or lawsuit filed or joined by the Department of Justice alleging a pattern or practice or systemic violation of a fair housing or civil rights law, or a claim under the False Claims Act related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, or civil rights generally, including an alleged failure to affirmatively further fair housing.
2. Describe any state or local fair housing laws. What characteristics are protected under each law?
3. Identify any local and regional agencies and organizations that provide fair housing information, outreach, and enforcement, including their capacity and the resources available to them.

The City's Human Relations Commission is a testament to the City's commitment to fair housing. By investing in the Human Relations Commission, the City of Hammond is one of only fifty-one local governments in the nation to achieve a substantial equivalence certification from HUD, meaning the City enforces a law that provides substantive rights, procedures, remedies and judicial review provisions that are substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

In recent years, the Human Relations Commission underwent staff re-organization and almost lost its certification. The Commission is now again under the direction of an Executive Director and has the capacity to administer its fair housing ordinance.

In addition to the Human Relations Commission, Hammond residents are served by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission (ICRC). Like the Hammond Human Relations Commission, the ICRC has also been certified by HUD as substantially equivalent in its capacity to administer fair housing law.

Going beyond the requirements of the federal fair housing law, the City has extended protections for fair housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In April 2015, the City passed ordinance 9293 which prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, services and accommodations.

There are a number of non-profit agencies in the area who play an important role in providing fair housing information, outreach, and enforcement. South Suburban

City of Hammond Indiana DRAFT Fair Housing Assessment  
11. Fair Housing Capacity and Resources

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Housing Center (SSHC), located in Homewood, receives HUD funds through the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP). In recent years, SSHC received funding for comprehensive fair housing enforcement activities in the south Chicago metropolitan region and in underserved areas of northwest Indiana and central Illinois. SSHC has the capacity to undertake complaint intake, strategic testing, systemic investigations, and dispute resolution. Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency that includes fair housing outreach in its services.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- a. Provide additional relevant information, if any, about fair housing enforcement, outreach capacity, and resources in the jurisdiction and region.
- b. The program participant may also include information relevant to programs, actions, or activities to promote fair housing outcomes and capacity.

In community meetings and discussions with fair housing providers, there seems to be a consensus in the belief that a more coordinated approach to fair housing would benefit both residents served in the area and make more efficient use of limited resources.

## FAIR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT, OUTREACH CAPACITY, AND RESOURCES CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

*Consider the listed factors and any other factors affecting the jurisdiction and region. Identify factors that significantly create, contribute to, perpetuate, or increase the severity of fair housing enforcement, outreach capacity, and resources and the fair housing issues, which are Segregation, RECAPs, Disparities in Access to Opportunity, and Disproportionate Housing Needs. For each significant contributing factor, note which fair housing issue(s) the selected contributing factor impacts.*

- **Lack of regional organization**
- Lack of local private fair housing outreach and enforcement
- Lack of local public fair housing enforcement
- Lack of resources for fair housing agencies and organizations
- Lack of state or local fair housing laws
- Unresolved violations of fair housing or civil rights law
- Other