

City of New Hope Fair Housing Policy

I. 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 assure equal housing opportunities for all citizens. As a recipient of federal community development funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the City of New Hope is obligated to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing.

The City of New Hope is dedicated to advancing inclusion and equity for all residents by developing this Fair Housing Policy to further create a safe, healthy, and accessible community for all residents. It is committed to upholding the federal Fair Housing Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, both of which prevent discriminatory practices in housing.

II. Policy Statement

It is the policy and commitment of the City of New Hope to ensure that fair and equal housing opportunities are available to all persons in all housing initiatives and development activities funded by the city regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, creed, familial status, national origin, or disability. This is achieved through external practices that provide access to fair housing information and referral services and through internal practices and procedures that promote fair housing inclusion.

III. External Practices

a. Intake & Referral

The City of New Hope has designated the Director of Community Development as the responsible entity for the intake and referral of all fair housing complaints. At a minimum, the individual will be trained in 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 HRA will advise the City Council on City programs and policies affecting fair housing and address concerns where appropriate. The HRA may use the information collected to inform their decisions with respect to programs, policies, issues, and concerns relating to fair housing. The HRA will not represent or provide legal advice to any members of the public.

b. Meaningful Access

The City of New Hope will have information about fair housing clearly displayed on its website. This includes links to various fair housing resources, including the Department

of Housing and Urban Development, Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and others as well as links to state and federal fair housing complaint forms.

c. In-Person Information

The City of New Hope will provide in-person fair housing information, including a list of fair housing enforcement agencies and fair housing complaint forms for enforcement agencies.

d. Languages

The HRA will provide information in languages other than English to individuals with limited English proficiency.

IV. Internal Practices

a. Training

The City of New Hope will train its staff and officials on fair housing considerations.

b. Housing Analysis

The City of New Hope will review its housing stock periodically to examine the affordability of both rental and owner-occupied housing for the purpose of informing future action.

c. Code Analysis

The City of New Hope will review its municipal code on a periodic basis, with specific focus on ordinances related to zoning, building and occupancy standards, to identify any potential for disparate impact or treatment.

d. Project Planning & Analysis

City planning functions and development review will consider housing issues, including whether potential projects may perpetuate segregation or lead to displacement of protected classes.

e. Community Engagement

The City of New Hope will seek input from underrepresented populations in the community. Conversations regarding fair housing, development, zoning, and land use changes may be facilitated by the city.

f. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

As a recipient of federal funds, the City of New Hope agrees to 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 of New Hope will review the recommendations from the analysis and, where appropriate, recommend integration into planning documents, including the Consolidated Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and other related documents.