

DO I HAVE TO DRIVE OR HAVE A CAR?

It is not necessary to drive or have a car, although it helps. If you drive, you must have auto insurance and a valid driver's license.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUALIFICATIONS?

Testers may become witnesses at a trial or hearing. If that happens we will give you more information and guidance. There are two general rules: you must be willing to tell the truth, and not have a prior felony conviction or any other matter in your background that a lawyer could use to discredit your testimony.

HOW CAN I SIGN UP FOR TRAINING?

Call the Fair Housing Council of Oregon at 503-223-8197 Ext. 2 in the Portland Metro area, or 1-800-424-3274 Ext. 2 outside the Portland Metro area.



This brochure was produced by the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. Our testing program is a free service, dedicated to the public.



1020 SW Taylor Street, Suite 700
Portland, Oregon 97205-2512

**YOU
CAN HELP
FIGHT
HOUSING
DISCRIMINATION**

**The Fair Housing Council of Oregon
needs people from all backgrounds
throughout the State of Oregon and
Clark County, Washington.**

Contact:
Luke Griffin, (800) 424-3247
lgriffin@FHCO.org
Enforcement Coordinator



*We need people like you
to assist with our
enforcement program.*

WHAT DOES THE FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF OREGON DO?

Federal, state, and local laws make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their protected class status: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, having children, source of income, or marital status. In a few cities it is also illegal to discriminate based on age, sexual orientation, and gender identity. We test for illegal housing discrimination. The Council takes complaints from people who believe they have been illegally discriminated against in housing because of their “protected class”.

WHAT IS A TEST?

“Testing” works like this. If an African-American calls the Fair Housing Council with a concern of being denied housing based on race, the Council will send out two testers separately. One tester will be African-American. One tester will be white. The tester’s assigned qualifications would be identical so that race would be the only major difference between them. The testers will visit the site, inquire about the property, and then report back to the Council on how they were treated.

The Enforcement Coordinator will review the reports to decide whether the testers were treated differently. For example, it might be discovered that the African-American tester was told that no apartments are available and the white tester was told that one apartment is available. Or, it might be found that both testers were given the same information.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TESTING?

The purpose of testing is to gather independent evidence. Often, test evidence is the only way to show that someone is breaking fair housing law. Federal courts have consistently supported fair housing testing. When a test shows evidence of discrimination, we can refer the victim(s) to a lawyer, or to an enforcement agency such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

All testers must attend a free 2.5 hour training session.



ARE TESTERS PAID?

For most testing, we provide a \$25.00 reimbursement for each completed on-site rental test, and \$10.00 for each completed telephone test. For mortgage and insurance testing the reimbursements are approximately \$50.00 and \$75.00, respectively. We also reimburse for mileage and long distance phone calls.

Important testing skills:

- **Punctuality**
- **Flexibility**
- **Reliability**
- **Attention to detail**
- **An ability to remember what you observed**
- **An ability to accurately write down these observations**
- **A willingness to be objective and not draw conclusions or make assumptions**
- **An ability to reply spontaneously when a housing provider asks an unexpected question**

HOW OFTEN WILL I TEST?

We cannot predict who or when we need to send out testers. Some people test quite frequently, or on short notice, and others seldom or never. How often you test often depends on your availability and the type of complaints we receive. Please feel free to contact us for more information.