



Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

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HOME of Va. Receives Two Federal Grants for \$425,000 to Combat Housing Discrimination in Virginia

RICHMOND, VA – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) was awarded \$425,000 of the total \$38 million under the *Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP)* to prevent, uncover, and counteract discriminatory housing practices in Virginia.

HOME was awarded a \$125,000 Education and Outreach Initiative grant to serve the commonwealth of Virginia with targeted education, outreach, and engagement efforts. HOME will educate a variety of audiences about HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule and their rights and obligations under the law. HOME will educate, prepare, and assist communities with upcoming Assessments of Fair Housing and participate meaningfully the development of those plans. This award also supports targeted outreach campaigns.

HOME was awarded a \$300,000 Private Enforcement Initiative grant to fight housing discrimination. Instances of illegal discrimination continue to be underreported. This is especially true among vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, Latino/Hispanic families, and LGBTQ individuals, thus delaying the promise of fair housing. HOME will address discrimination in Virginia that occurs not only through individuals, but will also challenge institutions that have policies or practices that result in unequal housing opportunities. The commonwealth has a great need for more robust enforcement of state and federal fair housing laws to address inequities. Enforcement actions address the discrimination faced by Virginians and provide examples that prevent individual and systemic discrimination in the future.

President and CEO Heather Crislip said "We're grateful for HUD's continued confidence in our work to educate people and institutions on the requirements of the Fair Housing Act and also provide vigorous enforcement of the Act, and we look forward to the progress towards housing equality that these resources will provide."

Here is HUD's full announcement:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-150

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME), founded in 1971, is a statewide fair housing non-profit. HOME's mission is to ensure equal access to housing for all people. HOME investigates housing discrimination and provides support for victims of discrimination. You can learn more about HOME and all of its services at www.HOMEofVA.org.

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