



Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc.

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For Immediate Release
January 23, 2018

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

RICHMOND, VA – On the 50th anniversary year of the Fair Housing Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) \$425,000 to prevent, uncover, and counteract discriminatory housing practices in Virginia under HUD's *Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP)*.

HOME was awarded a \$125,000 Education and Outreach Initiative grant to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia with targeted educational events and outreach efforts. HOME will educate a variety of audiences about their fair housing rights and obligations under the law. HOME will use multiple media opportunities as well as events to target consumers, housing providers, and government officials.

HOME was also awarded a \$300,000 Private Enforcement Initiative grant to fight housing discrimination. Instances of illegal discrimination continue to be underreported especially among vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities, Latino/Hispanic families, and LGBTQ individuals, thus delaying the promise of fair housing enacted fifty years ago. HOME will help individual Virginians enforce their fair housing rights, and will challenge systemic housing practices that deny equal housing opportunities across the commonwealth. Inequities in housing persist throughout Virginia's communities, requiring robust enforcement of state and federal anti-discrimination laws. Enforcement actions address the discrimination faced by Virginians and provide examples that prevent individual and systemic discrimination in the future. The Private Enforcement Initiative grant will provide \$300,000 a year for 3 years, allowing HOME to uncover and address long-term fair housing issues.

President and CEO Heather Crislip said "We are thankful that HUD continues to find confidence in our work to investigate and enforce instances of housing discrimination as well as educate people and institutions on the requirements of the Fair Housing Act. This funding allows HOME to continue its important work of ensuring equal access to housing for all Virginians."

Here is HUD's full announcement:

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_18_004

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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