Source of funds, or source of income, became a protected class in the Virginia Fair Housing Law on July 1, 2020. It is unlawful to discriminate because of any source that lawfully provides funds to or on behalf of a renter or buyer of housing, including any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program, whether such program is administered by a governmental or nongovernmental entity.

Landlords are required to treat all applicants the same. This includes looking at credit and rental history, sufficiency of funds, and adhering to a background check. A landlord would not be able to simply deny them because they will pay with a rent voucher or other lawful alternative incomes.

YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION WHEN SEARCHING FOR HOUSING WITH A HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER OR OTHER FUNDS

YOU ARE PROTECTED IF YOU RECEIVE:

- Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)
- Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Emergency rental assistance from nonprofits
- And others

Discrimination to look out for:

- A landlord charges more or requires an additional deposit when a Housing Voucher is presented.
- Rental listings that say “no section 8.”
- A landlord suggesting a tenant does not deserve their Voucher.
- Refusing to rent to an otherwise well qualified tenant because of stereotypes about people who receive financial assistance.

Facing discrimination? Or have you seen a “NO Section 8” ad? Let us know, and let us help: HOMEofVA.org/report

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