



For Immediate Release

Equal Rights Center receives \$100,000 grant

Funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will expand education and outreach programs

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 22, 2008 – The Equal Rights Center (ERC), a comprehensive non-profit civil rights organization, has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant will support a variety of education and outreach initiatives, culminating in a metro-wide public service campaign informing the public on fair housing laws and alerting people to signs of illegal discrimination.

“This grant will not only increase the visibility of the Equal Rights Center, but it will also help those most vulnerable in our society know what resources are available to them and know what rights they have if they are facing discrimination,” said Communications and Outreach Manager Natalie Laber.

The grant is comprised of three main components. First, print materials will be created for all six of the ERC’s program areas (fair housing, fair employment, disability rights, public accommodations, government services and immigrant rights) and distributed across the greater D.C. metropolitan area. The brochures will have the most up-to-date information on legal protections and resources available to the public.

Second, direct education in the form of 15 “Know Your Rights” workshops will be conducted by the ERC. The workshops will cover a variety of topics, including housing rights for victims of domestic violence, accessibility issues for people with disabilities and predatory lending issues.

Finally, the grant will fund two public service advertising campaigns which will run on metro rail and metro buses. The first campaign will focus on housing discrimination against victims of domestic violence and the second campaign will be a multilingual campaign focused on discrimination based on national origin.

“Education and outreach has long been a cornerstone of the Equal Rights Center’s mission,” said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the ERC. “It is only when people know their rights and responsibilities under the law that we can confront and defeat discrimination. We are extremely proud that HUD has found our education and outreach efforts worthy of this funding commitment, and we intend to use it to its best purposes.”

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