



For Immediate Release

Ashley White, Equal Rights Center, 202.370.3204

awhite@equalrightscenter.org

Equal Rights Center Receives Nearly \$1,000,000 from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Support Fair Housing Work

ERC recipient of three year Private Enforcement Initiative grant

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 30, 2011 – The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that the Equal Rights Center (ERC), a national non-profit civil rights organization, has been awarded a three-year performance-based Private Enforcement Initiative grant in the total amount of \$975,000. This is the first multi-year performance based grant awarded by HUD in the Washington, D.C. area.

Under this grant, the ERC will receive \$325,000 annually which will help fund the organization's fair housing complaint intake, counseling, investigative, testing, and enforcement activities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. A portion of the grant each year will also help fund the organization's education and outreach initiatives.

“We are once again honored to be the recipient of a substantial HUD grant,” said ERC Executive Director Don Kahl. “Our fair housing work under HUD grants over the past years has allowed the ERC to continue to affirmatively further fair housing and improve the lives of families in the D.C. area and across the nation. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with HUD to advance civil rights for individuals and whole communities.”

In 2010, the ERC was awarded two FY2009 grants from HUD, a \$275,000 PEI grant supporting the organization's testing capacity, and a \$100,000 grant funding education and outreach activities to fight housing discrimination. HUD rated the ERC's performance under both of these FY2009 grants as “100%--Excellent.”

“Testing plays an integral role in the ERC's ability to detect emerging forms of discrimination and advance civil rights through creating lasting change,” said John Baker, ERC Fair Housing Manager. “This important three-year HUD grant will allow the ERC to continue to expand our testing program and address the ever-changing face of discrimination. We are thankful to HUD for continuing to support the ERC and our efforts.”

Through its testing program, the ERC is able to identify and document discriminatory housing practices. The testing methodologies utilized by the ERC are recognized and accepted by the civil rights community, government agencies, and federal, state, and local

courts. The ERC's testing has impacted civil rights on a national basis. Since 2004, the ERC has reached agreements with developers to retrofit more 44,000 apartment and condominium units at more than 200 complexes in 18 states and the District of Columbia, to make them more accessible to people with disabilities. The ERC's testing of rental properties has also resulted in more than 15,000 apartment units being made available to Housing Choice (Section 8) Voucher holders in the greater D.C. metro area.

To link to this release online visit www.equalrightscenter.org/pr_HUDgrant

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Since 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC), a national non-profit civil rights organization, has worked to identify, challenge, and eliminate discrimination. The ERC combats discrimination in housing, employment, access to public accommodations and government services, disability rights and immigrant rights, through education and outreach, research, testing, counseling, advocacy and enforcement.

About the Department of Housing and Urban Development (www.hud.gov)

Created by President Johnson on September 9, 1965, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's mission includes fostering "a decent, safe, and sanitary home and suitable living environment for every American."