



Multi-Family Housing Resource Program

Year in Review

2018 - 2019



Mission & Strategic Priorities

The Equal Rights Center is a civil rights organization that identifies and seeks to eliminate unlawful and unfair discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations in its home community of Greater Washington, D.C. and nationwide.

The ERC's core strategy for identifying unlawful discrimination is civil rights testing. When the ERC identifies discrimination, it seeks to eliminate it through the use of testing data to educate the public and business community, support policy advocacy, conduct compliance testing and training, and, if necessary, take enforcement action.

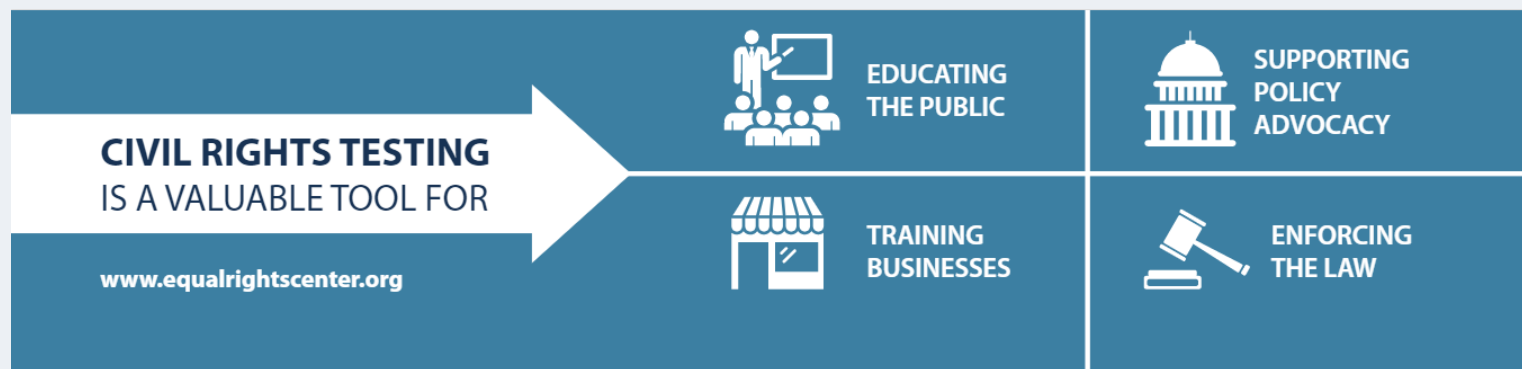


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Message from the Interim Executive Director

Dear MHRP Members,

It has been a busy year full of exciting and rewarding work, as we have worked together on our shared commitment to increasing accessibility. We remain inspired by your active participation and invaluable feedback.

This year, we saw growing attention on the issue of accessibility requirements for websites. We remain enthusiastic about continuing to work with you on issues of fair housing and accessibility—no matter the forum.

Once again, we are pleased to have invited two design and construction experts to be a part of our program this year. These experts are joining us to answer some of the more nuanced questions you have about physical accessibility.

The MHRP philosophy continues to guide our accessibility rights work throughout the year. Earlier in 2019, we released our report, *From Click to Visit*, which examined the barriers that people with disabilities continue facing while searching for housing. We also launched a new online course about fair housing requirements in Washington D.C.

None of this would be possible without your dedication to accessibility. The ERC is grateful to partner with each of you, and we look forward to our ongoing work together.

Sincerely,

Kate Scott



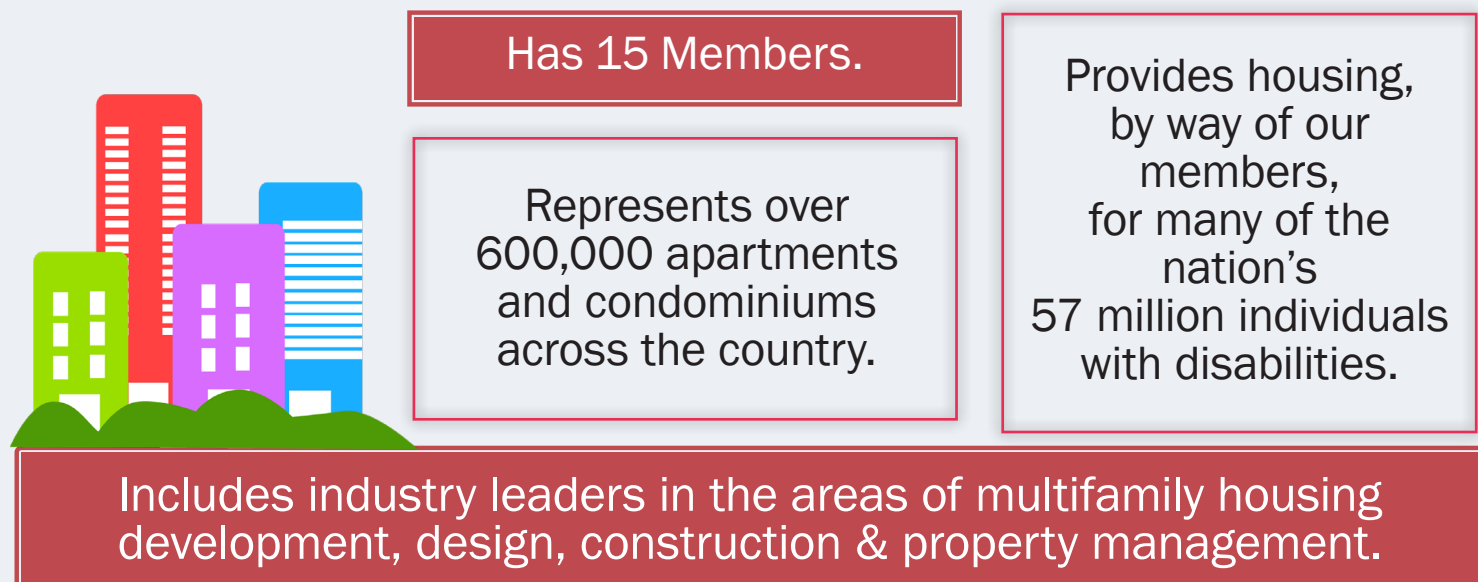
Program Overview

The Multifamily Housing Resource Program (MHRP) is a trailblazing membership program for housing industry leaders dedicated to assisting multifamily housing developers comply with federal and other accessibility requirements and to increasing the number of accessible apartments and condominiums in the United States.

MHRP Philosophy:

- Offering accessible housing expands the potential customer base to include the growing market of home renters and buyers with disabilities.
- Accessible design is attractive design, tending to create more open kitchen, bathroom, and unit designs that appeal to all residents.
- Providing accessible and adaptable units will allow residents to age in place, as the general population grows older.
- The cost of addressing accessibility on a retrofit basis far exceeds the cost of ensuring compliant design and construction at the earliest stages of every multifamily housing project.

Founded in 2008, MHRP...



Program Highlights

New Materials



The ERC has developed a series of resources under the umbrella of its Making Home Accessible initiative. The initiative provides educational resources about the fair housing rights of people with disabilities to help housing providers comply with fair housing best practices, including a toolkit about reasonable accommodations and modifications and answers to FAQs from housing providers.

The ERC released the *From Click to Visit* report based on a civil rights testing investigation into housing accessibility for people with disabilities. The report revealed numerous barriers to access for people with disabilities searching for housing in the Greater Washington, DC area, both online and in person. In particular, the report's findings raise major concerns about website inaccessibility.

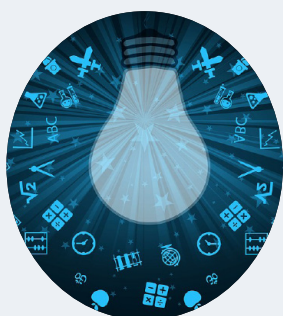
The ERC also developed and launched a new online course about fair housing requirements in the District of Columbia. This course reviews protected classes like source of income and status as a victim of an intra-family offense under the D.C. Human Rights Act, details about how local occupancy codes intersect with fair housing requirements, and requirements for criminal records screening. The course is interactive, with video and audio components including interviews with national and local fair housing experts.

Online Engagement



In-Person Trainings

Members have quick access to a variety of training materials online through the Equal Rights Learning Center. In addition, Training and Compliance Program Manager, Brian McKenzie, trained 103 people at in-person trainings for MHRP members.



Member Services

Instruction and Training

- Access to courses through the ERC's online learning system (ERLC) significantly expands the reach of accessibility by enabling members to share this learning opportunity with employees and stakeholders remotely.
- The ERC provides in-person trainings on important issues, strategies, and trends relevant to accessibility, inclusion, and equity in the housing arena. These courses are customized to effectively reach tiered staffing structures and address individual members' organizational needs.

Surveying and Testing

- The ERC surveys properties to ensure that FHA & ADA requirements are being followed. Additionally, surveys provide ideas and best practices for complying with the law.
- Civil rights testing is an investigative tool used to gather data to compare conduct to legal requirements or a policy. It involves one or more people covertly engaging in an interaction.

Sharing and Empowering

- The ERC shares best practices information with members to ensure that policies and practices reflect the spirit of fair housing & accessibility laws.
- The ERC also develops and provides materials and tools related to various topics on accessibility and fair housing.

Membership Types

The MHRP offers a variety of resources to assist members with implementing best practices designed to enhance, promote, and exceed compliance with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as they relate to fair housing & accessibility. Membership types and service levels are:

Executive Members

Industry leaders in the areas of multifamily housing development & management.

Associate Members

Housing industry businesses and organizations such as product or service vendors and contractors.

Advisory Members

Housing industry members and professional service firms with distinct accessibility-related expertise.

For more information about membership, please visit the MHRP website at equalrightscenter.org/mhrp.

Financials

October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019

<i>Program Income</i>	
MHRP Member Dues Collected	\$174,500
<i>Program Expenses</i>	
<i>Personnel</i>	
Membership Services	\$129,855.00
Communications	\$36,657.50
Administration	\$17,421.25
Personnel (Sub-Total)	\$183,933.75
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	
Communications	\$3,999.64
Technology	-
Quarterly meetings	-
Miscellaneous	\$1,454.86
Direct Expenses (Sub-Total)	\$5,454.50
Total	\$189,388.25

* The above amounts are not audited and do not include indirect expenses.

MHRP Staff and ERC Board of Directors

Kate Scott
Interim Executive Director

Brian McKenzie
Training & Compliance Manager

Megan Brooks
Accessibility Rights Manager

Sian Leach
External Affairs Manager

Diego Rivera
Operations Manager



Robert Dinerstein
President

Peter Edelman
First Vice-President

Sue A. Marshall
Second Vice-President

Sunil Mansukhani
Treasurer

Cameron W. Byrd
Board Member

Rebecca Crootof
Board Member

Olivier Kamanda
Board Member

Katy Neas
Board Member

George Ruttinger
Board Member

Jackie Simon
Board Member

Levi "Christian" Pearson
Board Member

Jerome A. Murphy
General Counsel

MHRP Members



Member since 2009



Member since 2010



Member since 2009



Member since 2013



Member since 2013



Member since 2011



Member since 2015



Member since 2012



Member since 2011



Member since 2011



Member since 2010



Member since 2015



Member since 2008





Member since 2013



Member since 2013

Contact Us

 @EqualRightsCntr

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