



Multi-Family Housing Resource Program

Year in Review

2019 - 2020



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.

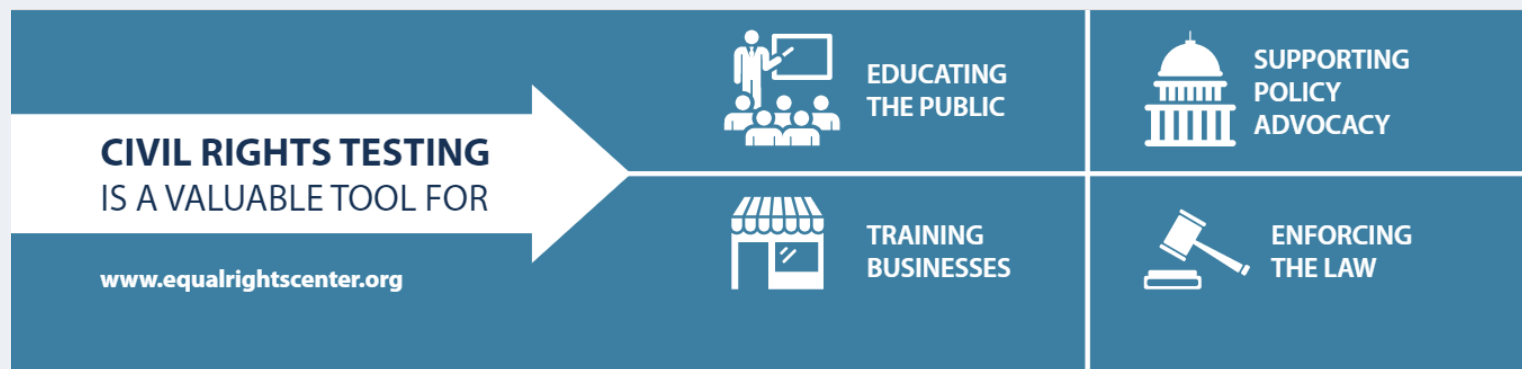


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Message from the Executive Director

Dear MHRP Members,

2020 has certainly not been the year we were expecting. Over the last nine months, we have been forced to adapt to an ever-changing world and meet the needs of living through a worldwide pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of life, especially housing, as we have adapted to a world where staying home is a critical part of public health. In mid-March, the ERC closed its physical office and began all remote work.



We have been inspired by your active participation and invaluable feedback as we learn to navigate these times. This year, we focused on distilling new guidance from HUD about assistance animals in housing—a topic that has been the subject of many MHRP conversations over the years. After the start of the pandemic, we pivoted to providing resources to you about accessibility and fair housing issues as they relate to COVID-19. Even though we are working in an all virtual environment for the foreseeable future, we remain dedicated to the MHRP philosophy. Once again, we are pleased to have invited three 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 ERC is grateful to partner with each of you, and we look forward to our ongoing work together.

Sincerely,

Kate Scott

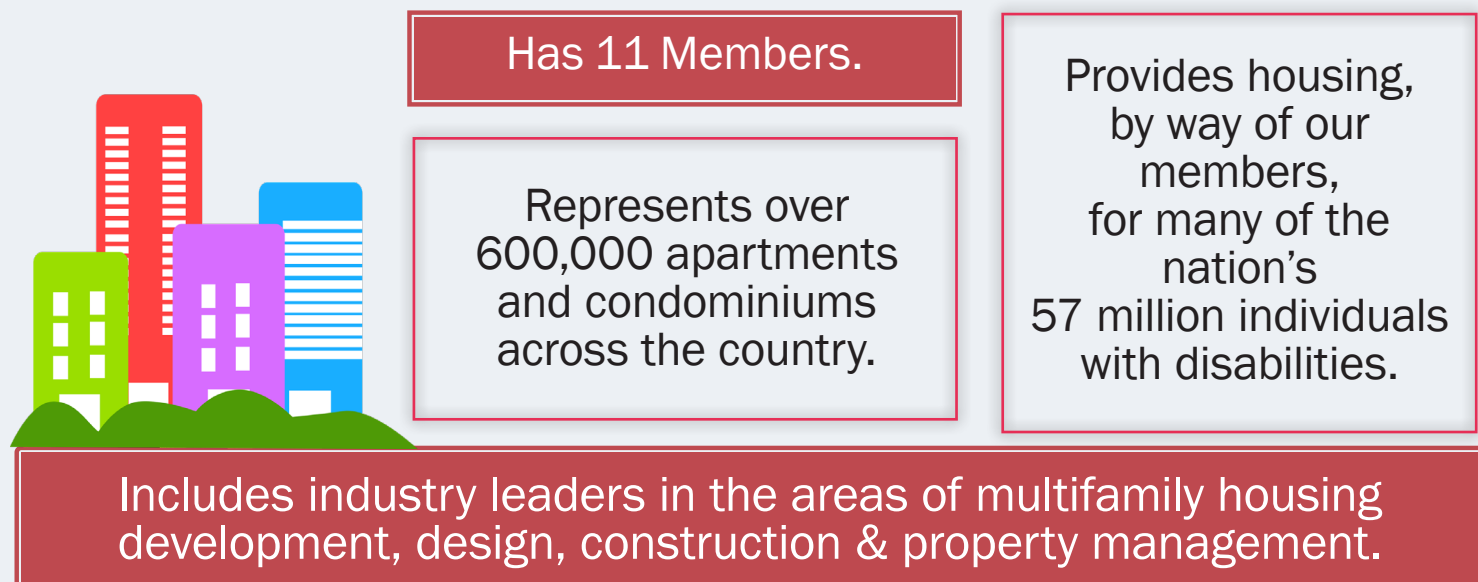
Program Overview

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...



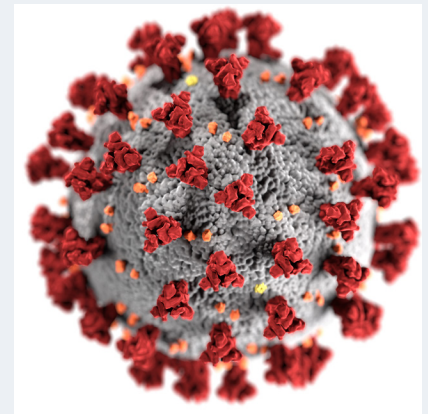
Program Highlights

New Materials

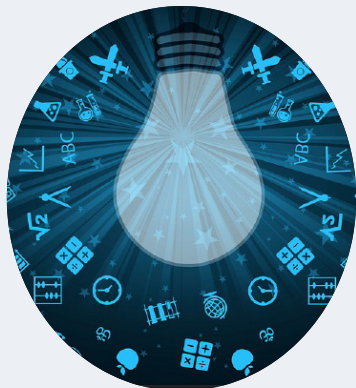


The ERC released a video to help explain new guidance about assistance animals from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released in January. This video approximately five minutes long, is designed to assist housing providers in understanding their fair housing obligations and how to assess a person's request to have an animal as a reasonable accommodation under the Fair Housing Act.

COVID-19



Since March, we have pivoted to address issues that have arisen with the spread of COVID-19. As rental agents have moved almost exclusively to using phone and email services for rentals, the focus on website accessibility and assistive technologies, such as telecommunication relay services, are critical topics for housing providers.



Trainings

Members have quick access to a variety of training materials online through the Equal Rights Learning Center. In addition, Senior Training and Compliance Program Manager Brian McKenzie, trained 79 people at 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, 2019- September 30, 2020

<i>Program Income</i>	
MHRP Member Dues Collected	\$87,500
<i>Program Expenses</i>	
<i>Personnel</i>	
Membership Services	\$85,882.50
Communications	\$38,156.25
Administration	\$23,306.25
Personnel (Sub-Total)	\$147,345.00
<i>Non-Personnel</i>	
Communications	\$1,118.40
Technology	-
Quarterly meetings	-
Miscellaneous	\$1,959.33
Direct Expenses (Sub-Total)	\$3,077.73
Total	\$150,422.73

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

MHRP Staff and ERC Board of Directors

Kate Scott
Executive Director

Brian McKenzie
Senior Compliance and Training
Manager

Sian Leach
External Affairs Manager

Nick Adjami
Outreach and Engagement
Coordinator



Robert Dinerstein
President

Peter Edelman
First Vice-President

Sunil Mansukhani
Treasurer

Sue A. Marshall
Secretary

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



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Member since 2015



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Companies**

Member since 2015



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TCR
TRAMMELL CROW RESIDENTIAL

Member since 2008




WOODFIELD
INVESTMENTS


Member since 2013



 **WASHINGTON
PROPERTY
COMPANY**

Member since 2013

Contact Us

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