



# **Multi-family Housing Resource Program Year in Review 2021 - 2022**



# 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.

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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.

**CIVIL RIGHTS TESTING  
IS A VALUABLE TOOL FOR**

[www.equalrightscenter.org](http://www.equalrightscenter.org)



EDUCATING  
THE PUBLIC



SUPPORTING  
POLICY  
ADVOCACY



TRAINING  
BUSINESSES



ENFORCING  
THE LAW



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# Message from the Executive Director

Dear MHRP Members,

It has been exciting to work alongside you all this past year on our shared task of advancing accessibility. Your active participation and insights have inspired us as we continually work to ensure this program serves you well.



This year, we focused on distilling and sharing new federal guidance regarding website accessibility and reasonable accommodation requests related to criminal records screenings. These subjects highlight the diversity of factors one must consider in order to make multi-family housing truly accessible. While physical access to housing for people with mobility disabilities is obviously crucial, it is only one part of the greater mission.

We were also thrilled this year to welcome Liz Stuewe to our staff in the role of Accessibility Rights Manager. She brings a wealth of experience in the disability rights field, and we're excited for her to be an additional resource for you all.

We are so proud to partner with each of you, united in our commitment to accessible housing. We appreciate your steadfast support and look forward to our ongoing work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" and last name "Scott" clearly distinguishable.

Kate Scott

# Program Overview

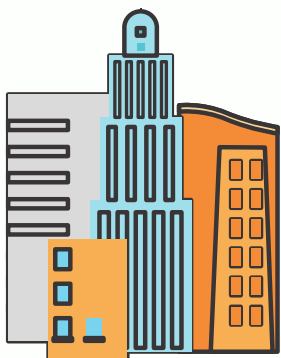
The Multifamily Housing Resource Program (MHRP) is a trailblazing membership program for housing industry leaders dedicated to assisting multifamily housing developers comply with federal and other accessibility requirements and to increasing the number of accessible apartments and condominiums in the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

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## **Founded in 2008, MHRP...**



**Has 10 members.**

**Represents over 600,000 apartments and condominiums across the country.**

**Provides housing, by way of our members, for many of the nation's 57 million individuals with disabilities.**

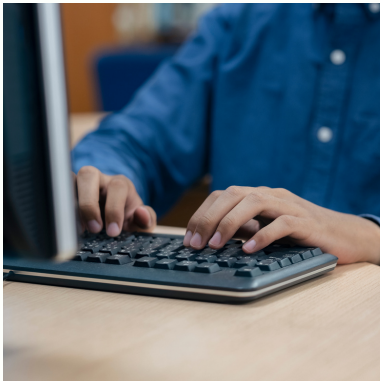
**Includes industry leaders in the areas of multifamily housing development, design, construction, and property management.**

# Program Highlights



## **New Accessibility Rights Manager**

The ERC welcomed Liz Stuewe to the organization in 2022 as Accessibility Rights Manager. Her responsibilities in the role range from conducting advocacy and engaging with members, to managing investigations and coordinating civil rights tests. We are excited for Liz share to share her expertise with our MHRP members.



## **Web Accessibility**

The ERC continued to focus on the expanding world of internet accessibility. In 2022, the Department of Justice issued guidance on Website Accessibility and the ADA. The ERC provided members with an overview of the guidance and tips to remain compliant during a quarterly call.



## **Criminal Records & Reasonable Accommodations**

In response to a memorandum provided by the Department of Housing & Urban Development, the ERC provided members with information concerning situations in which criminal background screening may involve a reasonable accommodation request. The ERC also identified and shared best practices for housing providers who wish to continue utilizing criminal records checks.



## **Training**

Members continue to 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, continues to offer live training opportunities to 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 and accessibility. Membership types and service levels are:

## Executive Members

Industry leaders in the areas of multifamily housing development and 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](https://equalrightscenter.org/MHRP)



# Financials

**October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022**

## **Program Income**

MHRP Member Dues Collected	\$79,500.00
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## **Program Expenses**

### Personnel

Membership Services	\$61,875.00
Communications	\$8,662.50
Administration	\$6,668.75
Personnel (Sub-Total)	\$77,206.25

### Non-Personnel

Events	\$0.00
Technology	\$1,482.94
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Direct Expenses (Sub-Total)	\$1,482.94

Total	\$78,689.19
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\*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*

Rebecca Waxman  
*Training Specialist*

Liz Stuewe  
*Accessibility Rights Manager*

Nick Adjami  
*Senior Communications &  
Engagement Coordinator*



Robert Dinerstein  
*President*

Laura Gaztambide Arandes  
*Board Member*

Levi "Christian" Pearson  
*Board Member*

Peter Edelman  
*First Vice-President*

Matthew Handley  
*Board Member*

George Ruttinger  
*Board Member*

Sunil Mansukhani  
*Treasurer*

Olivier Kamanda  
*Board Member*

Jackie Simon  
*Board Member*

Sue A. Marshall  
*Secretary*

Marsha Mazz  
*Board Member*

Jerome A. Murphy  
*General Counsel*

# MHRP Members



Member since 2013



Member since 2011



Member since 2015



Member since 2012



Member since 2011



Member since 2010



Member since 2015



Member since 2008



Member since 2013



Member since 2013



## Contact Us



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EqualRightsCntr



EqualRightsCenter



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