

WILKES COUNTY FAIR HOUSING COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Wilkes County has Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects currently in progress. The CDBG program requires that a Fair Housing plan and complaint procedure be adopted by the County.

Housing discrimination is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and by the North Carolina State Fair Housing Act. In an effort to promote fair housing and to ensure that the rights of housing discrimination victims are protected, Wilkes County has adopted the following procedures for receiving and resolving housing discrimination complaints:

1. Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in Wilkes County may do so by informing the Wilkes County Manager of the facts and circumstances of the alleged discriminatory act or practice;
2. Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the Wilkes County Manager shall inform the North Carolina Human Relations Commission (Commission) about the complaint. The Wilkes County Manager shall then assist the Commission and the complainant in filing an official written housing complaint with the Commission, pursuant to the State Fair Housing Act and Title VIII;
3. The Wilkes County Manager shall offer assistance to the Commission in the investigation and conciliation of all housing discrimination complaints, which are based upon events occurring in Wilkes County.
4. The Wilkes County Manager shall publicize within Wilkes County area that the Wilkes County Manager is the local official to contact with housing discrimination complaints based upon events occurring in Wilkes County;
5. All complaints shall be acknowledged within ten (10) days of receipt.

If you have any questions about the complaint procedure or would like to register a complaint, please contact The Wilkes County Manager at (336) 651-7346 or, for the hearing impaired, TDD assistance is available at 7-1-1 or (800) 735-2962.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of June, 20 11

By: ~~Bob~~ K. Elmore
Chairman, County Commissioners

Attest: Judy A. Snyder
County Clerk

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Wilkes County seeks to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, citizens seek safe, sanitary and habitable dwellings in all areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, the County finds the denial of equal housing opportunities because of religion, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, handicap or age legally wrong and socially unjust; and

WHEREAS, the denial of equal housing opportunities in housing accommodations is detrimental to public welfare and public order; and

WHEREAS, the County finds the practice of discrimination against any citizen in housing a denial of his equal opportunity to seek better living conditions and to develop community pride;

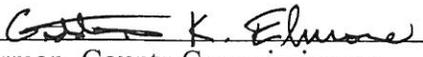
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Commissioners of Wilkes County, North Carolina, that:

Section I. The County Commissioners of Wilkes County have declared it an official policy of the County government that there shall not be discrimination in the terms and conditions for buying or renting housing in Wilkes County.

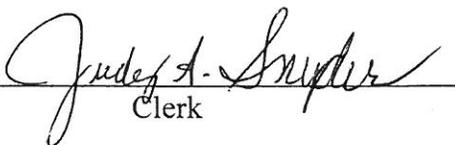
Section II. All business groups and individual citizens of Wilkes County are urged to respect and implement this policy.

Section III. The Chairman or his or her designate, is the official authorized to (1) receive and document complaints regarding housing discrimination in Wilkes County; and (2) refer such complaints to the North Carolina Human Relations Commissioners for investigation, conciliation and resolution.

ADOPTED, this 7th day of June, 2011.

By: 
Chairman, County Commissioners

ATTEST:


Clerk

Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing

Grantee: Wilkes County

Recipient's Address: 110 North Street, Room 100, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Contact Person: John Yates

Contact Phone #: (336) 651-7346

Contact Email: jyates@wilkescounty.net

TDD #: (877) 735-8200 or 711

- I. Indicate if the Recipient will be affirmatively furthering fair housing for the first time or has implemented specific activities in the past.

First Time _____

Past Activities X

- II. Identify and analyze obstacles to affirmatively furthering fair housing in recipient's community. (Use additional pages as necessary)

The primary obstacles to affirmatively furthering fair housing in Wilkes County are the following:

1. A large number of people within the community are unaware of the existence of fair housing laws;
2. Many residents do not understand the rights and responsibilities of individuals covered by fair housing laws;

- III. Will the above activities apply to the total municipality or county?

Yes X

No _____

If no, provide an explanation.

(Use additional pages as necessary)

- IV. Briefly describe the quarterly activities that the recipient will undertake over the active period of the grant to affirmatively further fair housing in their community. A time schedule and estimated cost for implementation of these activities must be included. *Activities must be scheduled for implementation at least on a quarterly basis.* (Use attached table)

V. Describe recipient's method of receiving and resolving housing discrimination complaints. This may be either a procedure currently being implemented or one to be implemented under this CDBG grant. Include a description of how the recipient informs the public about the complaint procedures. (Use additional pages as necessary)

- 1) Any person or persons wishing to file a complaint of housing discrimination in Wilkes County may do so by **informing the County Manager** of the facts and circumstance of the alleged discriminatory acts or practice.
- 2) Upon receiving a housing discrimination complaint, the County Manager shall acknowledge the complaint within **10 days in writing** and inform the Division of Community Assistance and the North Carolina Human Relations Commission about the complaint.
- 3) The County Manager shall **offer assistance** to the Commission in the investigation and reconciliation of all housing discrimination complaints which are based on events occurring in the *town/city/county*.
- 4) The County Manager shall **publicize** in the local newspaper, with the TDD#, who is the local agency to contact with housing discrimination complaints.

Approved By:

<i>Gideon K. Elmore</i>		<i>6-7-11</i>
Name and Title of Chief Elected or Executive Officer	Signature	Date

Grantee: Wilkes County

Quarterly Fair Housing Activity	Months	Year	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost
Establish FH policy, Complaint Procedure	Apr.-June	2011	\$0.00	
Publish FH Complaint Procedure in Local Newspaper.	July-Sept.	2011	\$50.00	
Provide County buildings with FH brochures and post FH posters.	Oct.-Dec	2011	\$25.00	
Post FH Complaint Procedure in County buildings	Jan.- Mar.	2012	\$5.00	
Send landlord/tenant press release to local newspaper	Apr. -June	2012	\$50.00	
Post FH Complaint Procedure on County website.	July-Sept.	2012	\$0.00	
Provide County buildings with landlord/tenant information.	Oct. - Dec.	2012	\$10.00	
Provide area realtors and local lenders with HUD homebuyer information.	Jan. - Mar.	2013	\$75.00	
Replenish FH brochures as needed in County buildings.	Apr. - June	2013	\$5.00	
Provide local Cooperative Extension office with HUD homebuyer materials.	July - Sept.	2013	\$10.00	
Replenish landlord/tenant information as needed in County buildings.	Oct.-Dec.	2013	\$5.00	