

Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit

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An Invitation to - TESTING -

So you would like to know what you can do to make fair housing a reality in the Detroit area? Here is one way:

Become a Tester

An eventful, and sometimes exciting, time awaits you as an FHC Tester. Besides visiting many interesting homes and apartment complexes, you may have opportunity to serve as a witness in a court case. Most importantly, you become a key part of FHC's efforts to end discrimination in housing.

What is a Tester?

As a tester you are playing the role of a homeseeker - a person who is looking for a housing unit in which to live. Testers must be objective, careful observers, accurate reporters and truthful witnesses.

What is Testing?

Testing is a term that refers to a process of checking the housing, market to determine the nature and extent of discriminatory treatment accorded different homeseekers. Two individuals, alike in every respect except the variable being tested, are sent to the same rental or sales office. Testers take careful notes of what transpires. Differences in treatment often form the basis for the successful resolution of a housing discrimination complaint.

Why Testing?

The testing process has been consistently supported by federal courts as a legitimate, necessary, and often, the only method available to identify practices of unlawful housing discrimination. In the Detroit area, over 390 litigations have been filed by complainants based, in large part, on the evidence provided by FHC testers. Both the sworn oral testimony and the actual written reports of testers are routinely accepted by courts as evidence of discriminatory conduct by a defendant.

Where do I find out more?

All testers are required to complete a training course. Training sessions are normally conducted by FHC on the 2nd Saturday of each month (10AM to 1PM). Other times and locations for groups of 4 or more can be arranged by contacting Al Young, Coordinator of Investigations and Testing, at the FHC office: (313) 963-1274.
