

FAIR HOUSING ACTION PLAN 2013-2017												
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Goal 1: Work to eliminate housing discrimination which primarily affects persons of color, the disabled, and families with children.												
Strategy 1: Develop fair housing educational programs for Housing and Human Service agencies and staff who serve protected classes, especially families, people of color and persons with disabilities.												
2015-17	Distribute information packets directly to landlords and property management companies with information on fair housing and reasonable accommodations.											
2014-16	*Provide education to local agencies and staff that work with protected classes on what constitutes a violation of fair housing laws, and where to file a complaint											
2013 & 16	*Hold a local fair housing workshop; invite property managers to participate . Provide a speaker from the Fair Housing Center of Washington.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Promote self testing in the rental and sales markets.											
2015	Contract with the Fair Housing Center of Washington to initiate testing of housing providers to measure their willingness to make reasonable accommodations for prospective disabled residents.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Provide copies of "Seven Technical Requirements" based on the Fair Housing Act Accessibility Guidelines for cover											
2014 -16	*Provide fair housing training to human service agencies and providers of transitional housing.											
Goal 2: Raise the lending community's awareness about the application of fair housing law to homeownership.												
Strategy 1: Encourage the involvement of banks and mortgage lending companies in furthering fair housing practices.												
2013-15-17	*City staff will provide fair housing information and educational packets on predatory lending to local Banks, Mortgage companies and Real Estate Agencies											
2013-14-15-16-17	*The City will provide fair housing information to local homebuyer programs to help people seeking to own their first home understand their right to receive fair unbiased treatment.											
2015 & 17	* Ensure that educational materials are provided so that local lenders and their employees can receive training to improve their understanding of their obligations under fair housing.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Work with lenders and agencies that provide homebuyer assistance to market programs to people of color.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Advocate all local banks and mortgage lenders obtain free subscriptions to the <i>WA State FH Update newsletter</i> and distribute to their staffs.											
Goal 3: Work to educate the public at large of protected classes, fair housing laws and the resources available to them.												
Strategy 1: Provide more fair housing education and outreach to increase knowledge of fair housing topics and rights.												
2015	The City will contract with the Fair Housing Center of WA to initiate testing of housing providers to measure their willingness to make reasonable accommodations for prospective disabled residents.											
2013 & 16	*Provide fair housing training for property owners, managers, and staff to ensure equal treatment of potential tenants.											
2016-17	*Extend outreach programs to serve protected classes and their service providers.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Distribute information directly to agencies (landlords, owners, lenders, realty companies, and service agencies) that assist protected classes with housing services.											
2014-15	*Provide training on filing complaints with HUD and the Washington State Human rights commission to change the seeming conflict between community input indicating discrimination against families with children and the lack of familial status complaints filed.											
Strategy 2: Educate the general public about fair housing through a variety of media channels.												
2013-14-15-16-17	*Publish one article or notice per year about fair housing on the city of Bellingham's web site.											
2015	*The City will join together with other fair housing organizations and participate in a community event to offer fair housing information to educate the public at large of protected classes, fair housing laws and resources available to them.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Publish one article or notice per year about fair housing in a local news paper.											
2014-2015	*Distribute posters and hand-outs translated into other languages common to the area that educates the public about fair housing.											
2013-14-15-16-17	*Maintain a list of volunteer interpreters willing to present to non English speaking groups to increase awareness of fair housing laws, what constitutes a violation, and where to file a complaint											
2013-14-15-16-17	*maintain an internet website that provides current information for citizens about fair housing practices.											
2014-15-16-17	*Staff will provide human service and temporary shelter providers with Fair Housing educational brochures to post in their waiting rooms.											