

## Consider the following scenario:

A young African-American woman is searching for her first apartment. She finds an apartment and sets an appointment to view it. When they arrive at the apartment, the landlord tells her that he will not rent to “colored” people.

The next day the young woman files a discrimination complaint against the landlord. When the investigator asks the landlord what happened, the landlord denies saying anything about race. He says, “She is just making it up.”

What proof does the young woman have that discrimination took place? Will the landlord get away with it? He might, unless testing enters into the situation.

To test whether the young woman was the victim of discrimination, two testers are matched to her characteristics: same gender, age, income, length of employment and etc. One tester is African American and the other tester is White. The testers go separately to the apartment where each asks the landlord to look at the apartment. The White tester is shown the apartment; the landlord tells the African-American tester that he refuses to rent to “colored” people. Each tester documents her experience.

Now, when the young woman files a complaint and the landlord denies it, she has proof to stop the discrimination.

## FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

**The Fair Housing Action Network is recruiting volunteer testers to help fight housing discrimination.**

Volunteer testers pose as potential renters or buyers of apartments or homes. They document their experiences, which can then be compared with the experiences of people searching for housing, to determine if discrimination is occurring.

We need volunteer testers of all genders, races, religions, national origins, abilities, sexual orientation. If you are interested in rooting out housing discrimination, please volunteer.

**For the chance to make a difference, call:**

The Fair Housing Action Network  
(headquartered at the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living)

**304-296-6091**

or e-mail:

[cchantler@nwvcil.org](mailto:cchantler@nwvcil.org)

Alternate format available on request.

WV Fair Housing  
Action Network

Making housing choice a reality.

# Fair Housing Testing

**Take a stand  
against housing  
discrimination**

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Morgantown, WV

Phone: 340-296-6091

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

# Fair Housing Testing– Get Involved

## Who We Are

The Fair Housing Action Network is a coalition of nonprofit organizations whose mission is to create, promote and support equal housing choice and opportunity, and to eliminate housing discrimination in West Virginia.

The Network is the only provider of fair housing testing services in West Virginia and has provided education and outreach on fair housing laws for many years.

## The Fair Housing Act

The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing based on these protected classes:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex
- Familial Status
- Disability

West Virginia Fair Housing Law covers two additional classes:

- Ancestry
- Blindness

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is a tester?

Testers are volunteers who pose as potential renters or buyers of apartments or homes. Testers document their experiences. The Fair Housing Network's testing coordinator will then determine whether discrimination is taking place based on race, familial status, disability or the other classes of people protected by fair housing laws

### Who can be a tester?

Volunteer testers are needed from both sexes, and in all colors, abilities, ages, religions, national origins and sexual orientations. A tester must be reliable, detail oriented, and able to complete assignments on time. A tester is anyone who is dedicated to fair housing rights for everyone.

### How often will a tester receive an assignment?

Testers are on-call volunteers. Some testers might have two or three assignments per week; some may have only one assignment per month. How often depends on our needs and the availability of the tester.

### Do testers receive any compensation?

While testers are on-call volunteers, they are compensated \$35.00 per assignment.

### How do I become a tester?

Call 304-296-6091 or visit our web site at [www.wvfairhousing.org](http://www.wvfairhousing.org) to find out when the next tester training is scheduled. Trainings last about three hours. A tester is certified to receive assignments after successfully completing the training and passing a practice test.