

COMMUNITY PULSE

JULY 2025

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

Hello
SUMMER



Fair Housing Resource Center

The Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization offering several housing programs to benefit residents of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula County, Ohio. The mission of the Fair Housing Resource Center is to promote equal housing opportunities for all persons and to advocate for fair housing and diversity in Lake and surrounding counties through the education and involvement of the public, governments, and the business community.

FHRC operates a Landlord/Tenant hot-line service for county residents to assist them in protecting their housing rights. FHRC also operates a fair housing intake complaint service for victims of housing discrimination. FHRC is a Housing Counseling agency certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and provides homeowner counseling such as foreclosure prevention, predatory lending, home financing and repairs.



Meet the Team

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Executive Director

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Assistant Director

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**Certified Housing
Counselor**

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Housing Counselor

Arlene Parra
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***Certified HUD Housing
Counselor**

Join our Board Today!

**Call (440) 392-0147
for more information!**

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Community Pulse



Fair Housing Resource Center

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Painesville, Ohio 44077

P:(440)392-0147 | F:(440)392-0148

Email: info@fhrc.org

www.fhrc.org



NFHA Petition To Prevent Cuts to Fair Housing Funding

By: Patricia Kidd, Esq.

As Congress works on the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, funding for critical fair housing programs is at risk. The Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) and the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) play essential roles in combating housing discrimination and ensuring equal access to housing for all.

Every year, thousands of individuals and families across the country face discrimination when trying to rent or buy a home. FHIP funds nonprofit fair housing organizations to investigate complaints, conduct education, and enforce fair housing laws. FHAP provides funding to state and local agencies that enforce fair housing protections. Without adequate support, these programs cannot meet the growing demand for their services.

For FY25, housing advocates are urging Congress to provide at least \$82 million for FHIP and \$40 million for FHAP. These funding levels are crucial for maintaining the capacity of local organizations and government agencies to investigate discrimination and educate the public about fair housing rights.

Underfunding these programs would have serious consequences, limiting the ability of communities to fight housing discrimination at a time when housing inequities remain widespread.

How You Can Help:

You can make a difference by contacting your U.S. Senators and Representatives today. Urge them to fully fund FHIP and FHAP in the FY25 budget. The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) has made it easy to send a message online visit: <https://nationalfairhousingalliance.salsalabs.org/supportfairhousinginbudget-cta/index.html>.



Seasonal Preparedness Tips: Summer Safety & Housing Readiness

By: Dana Pritschau, Housing Counselor

As temperatures rise and summer storms roll in, it's important to make sure your home—and your family—are prepared. Whether you rent or own, these seasonal tips can help you stay safe, cool, and in control.

What to Do If Your A/C Stops Working

- Notify your landlord immediately in writing. They are responsible for maintaining essential services, and in extreme heat, lack of air conditioning could be considered a health and safety issue.
- Keep it cool: Use fans, keep blinds closed during the day, and open windows at night if it's safe to do so.
- Know your rights: If your landlord does not respond in a reasonable time, call us to discuss your rights under fair housing and tenant law.

Fire Safety in the Summer

- Grill safely: Only grill outdoors and never near siding, wooden decks, or balconies.
- Check your smoke detectors: Test monthly and replace batteries every 6 months.
- Beat the brownout: If the power goes out during high heat, have a flashlight and battery-operated fan ready. Avoid candles, which can pose a fire hazard.
- Unplug unused appliances to reduce power strain and fire risk.

Storm & Weather Awareness

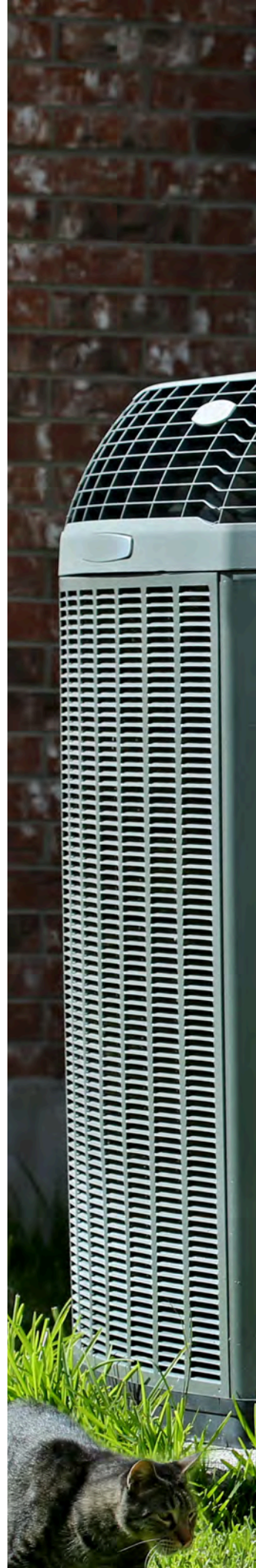
- Know your shelter plan—especially if you live in a mobile home or high-risk area.
- Secure outdoor items like lawn chairs, umbrellas, or grills before storms hit.
- Create an emergency kit: Include bottled water, medications, flashlights, chargers, and essential documents.

Summer Maintenance Checklist

- Inspect windows and doors for leaks or cracks that let warm air in.
- Make sure ceiling fans rotate counterclockwise to push cool air down.
- Remove lint from dryer vents to reduce fire risk.
- Report pest issues promptly—roaches and ants are more active in the summer.

Need Help?

If your landlord isn't responding to essential summer-related maintenance—or if you believe you're being treated unfairly—call the Fair Housing Resource Center. We're here to help you understand your rights and stay safe this season.



BARBECUE BATTLES: NAVIGATING NEIGHBOR DISPUTES

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director



Summer often brings more time outdoors and increased interaction with neighbors. While many of these interactions are friendly, some can lead to disputes over noise, shared spaces, or even harassment. If you're a renter in Ohio, it's important to understand your rights when these situations arise.

Under Ohio landlord-tenant law (Ohio Revised Code 5321), landlords are required to maintain a safe and habitable living environment. While the law doesn't directly govern tenant-to-tenant behavior, landlords must act if one tenant's actions make another's unit unlivable—especially in cases of harassment, threats, or illegal activity.



Common complaints include loud noise, rude behavior, misuse of parking or shared areas, or discrimination based on race, gender, or disability. These issues may fall under the federal Fair Housing Act, which protects tenants from discrimination and harassment in housing. If a landlord knows about this type of behavior and fails to act, they could be held legally responsible.

Tenants should take several steps when dealing with a difficult neighbor. First, document the issue—write down dates, times, and what occurred. If safe, consider addressing the issue directly with the neighbor. If the problem continues, notify your landlord in writing and ask them to intervene. You can also contact a fair housing agency if you believe the issue involves discrimination. If you ever feel threatened or witness illegal activity, contact local authorities right away.



In serious cases where a landlord refuses to act and the situation becomes unbearable, tenants may have legal grounds to break their lease. However, this should only be done with the guidance of a housing advocate or attorney.

Disputes with neighbors can be stressful, but tenants don't have to face them alone. Whether it's a matter of courtesy or a violation of your rights, there are steps you can take—and help is available if you need it.



RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Need Help with Rent or Moving Costs?

FHRC offers rental assistance programs designed to support low to moderate-income households in Lake County, Ohio. Whether you're a senior, a disabled individual, or simply need help with first month's rent and deposits, we're here to help!

Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Don't wait—apply today! Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and depends on funding availability.

Funded by:



Programs Available:

- ☒ Senior/Disabled Short-Term Subsidy
- ☒ Short-Term Subsidy for Low-Income Households
- ☒ Security Deposit Assistance
- ☒ 1st Months Rent Assistance



FAIR HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

1100 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, Ohio 44077



To see if you qualify call:
440-392-0147

APPLY TODAY

For More Information

www.fhrc.org





What If I'm Denied? – A Renter's How-To Guide

By: Dana Pritschau

Getting your application for housing denied housing can be frustrating and even frightening—but you still have rights and options. If this happens to you, here's what to do next:

Ask Why You Were Denied

Landlords aren't always required to give a reason—but it's okay to ask politely. Common reasons might include:

- Credit score
- Rental history
- Background check
- Income level

Tip: If they give you a vague answer like “not a good fit,” or refuse to explain, that could be a red flag—especially if you feel you were treated differently because of your race, disability, family size, or another protected trait.

Request a Copy of Your Screening Report

If a landlord used a background, credit, or tenant screening company to make their decision, you have the right to request a free copy of that report under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Contact the company listed in your denial notice within 60 days. If management refuses to provide the report, it's time to call us!

Look for Signs of Discrimination

- Were you told the unit was “already rented,” but then see it listed again?
- Were you discouraged because you have kids or use a housing voucher?
- Did the landlord say they don't rent to people with service animals?

These could be signs of housing discrimination, and it's important to speak up. Keep any texts, emails, or flyers that might support your claim.

Call the Fair Housing Resource Center 440-392-0147

REMEMBER - You don't have to figure it out alone. We're here to help you:

- Understand if the denial violated fair housing laws
- File a complaint if necessary
- Connect to legal assistance or housing help
- Know what steps to take next

Don't Give Up

One denial doesn't define you. The housing market can be tough, but there are fair landlords out there, and support systems to help you succeed.

Choosing a Realtor

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director

Buying a home can be exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming. One of the most important first steps is choosing a knowledgeable and trustworthy realtor to guide you through the journey. A good realtor does more than show you homes, they help you navigate the negotiation process, answer your questions, and serve as a steady resource every step of the way. Because realtors play such a vital role in home buying, it's essential to find someone who is experienced, dependable, and well-informed. Unfortunately, not all realtors are created equal, so choosing the right one matters.

When considering a realtor for your home buying process, it is important to find someone you are comfortable with. A realtor will be your guide through the entire process; so comfort and trust are very important. Too often, individuals go with the first realtor they meet and end up regretting it down the line. While realtors may try to pressure you into hiring them as your buyer's agent, don't give in unless you trust them.

It is also important to look at the realtor's credentials and experience. A realtor plays a pivotal role in the negotiation process so a seasoned and experienced realtor will be invaluable. Look at the training the realtor has. Some realtors have completed the basic state licensing requirements while others have attended classes and other certifications throughout their career. Look at how long the realtor has been in the business. You don't want someone who is new and learning during your transaction. This lack of experience could cost you thousands in the end.

Buying a house can be a fun and stressful experience. It will test your patience but will be rewarding in the end. Don't be afraid to be assertive and ask questions. Finding the right realtor for you will help you have the smoothest buying process possible. Have fun and good luck with your purchase!



EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL: A DAY OF FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION



Join us for a powerful day of education, connection, and advocacy! Whether you're a housing provider, tenant, advocate, or service professional, this seminar offers essential insights and tools to support equal access to housing for all.

FREE SEMINAR

Limited Seating – Registration Required- Lunch Provided

- **Learn** your rights under the Fair Housing Act—what's protected and what's not.
- **Recognize** housing discrimination and how to respond if it happens.
- **Understand** landlord and tenant responsibilities when it comes to fair housing.
- **Get help**—find out where to report issues and access local resources.



9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



August 28, 2025



Environmental Learning Center
7250 Alexander Rd.
Concord, Oh 44077

REGISTER AT
WWW.FHRC.ORG

Grills, Gardens & Good Vibes: How to Be a Great Neighbor This Summer

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director



Summer is here—windows are open, grills are fired up, and porches are buzzing. It's the season of sunshine, cookouts, and community. Whether you rent an apartment or live in a duplex, a little courtesy goes a long way in keeping the peace and making summer enjoyable for everyone.

Here are a few ways to stay cool (literally and socially) this season:

- **Respect the Noise Curve.** Love blasting your summer playlist? Great—but keep in mind that your neighbors might have early shifts or napping babies. Quiet hours usually start around 10 PM, so wind things down before then to avoid complaints.
- **Grill with Skill.** Barbecues are a summer staple, but always check your lease or property rules. Some places don't allow grills on balconies or near buildings for safety reasons. If in doubt, ask before you light up.

- **Green Thumbs Up!** Want to plant some flowers or a tomato pot? Awesome! Just be sure it's okay with your landlord or property manager, especially if it involves digging or shared space.
- **Share the Shade.** Outdoor common areas like picnic tables, courtyards, or playgrounds are for everyone. Be mindful of how long you use the space, clean up after yourself, and make room for others to enjoy it too.
- **Say Hello.** A simple smile or wave can go a long way toward building friendly neighborly vibes. You don't have to become best friends—but being approachable makes life more pleasant for everyone.

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy where you live and connect with your community. With a little respect and a dash of fun, you can help make your building or neighborhood a great place to live—for everyone

JOIN THE LAKE COUNTY HOUSING COALITION

The Lake County Coalition for Housing is a collaborative network of housing advocates, service providers, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, landlords, and community members.

We come together to address housing challenges across Lake County—from homelessness prevention and affordable housing development to landlord-tenant resources and fair housing education.



What We Do:

Coordinate Community Responses to Housing

Needs

- From emergency shelter to affordable housing initiatives, we work collectively to identify and address gaps in housing services.

Provide Education & Outreach

- We offer trainings, workshops, and community forums on topics like tenant rights, landlord support, fair housing laws, homelessness prevention, and more.

Promote Resource Sharing & Networking

- Connect with agencies, service providers, and stakeholders across sectors to streamline referrals and increase housing options.

Advocate for Policy Change

- Support local and state efforts that expand housing opportunities and protect vulnerable populations.



NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH DURING TIMES OF NATIONAL TRANSITION

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director

In recent years, Americans have faced a wave of significant transitions—social, political, economic, and cultural. From a global pandemic and economic uncertainty to political unrest and movements for racial and social justice, these rapid changes have left many people feeling emotionally overwhelmed and mentally drained.

It's important to acknowledge that living through constant change takes a toll on mental health. Feelings of anxiety, sadness, frustration, or hopelessness are normal reactions to unpredictable events. For many, concerns about job security, housing affordability, public safety, climate change, and shifting social policies have created a sense of instability that's hard to escape.

If you're feeling the emotional weight of these transitions, you are not alone. One of the most important things you can do for your mental health is to give yourself permission to feel what you're feeling. Emotional suppression can intensify stress over time. Recognize your emotions without judgment and understand that it's okay to not feel okay.

Staying connected with supportive people, whether friends, family, or community organizations, can help reduce feelings of isolation. Talking with others who may be experiencing similar challenges provides validation and emotional relief.

Another helpful strategy is to set healthy boundaries around media consumption. Staying informed is important, but constant exposure to distressing news can increase anxiety and fear. Give yourself breaks from news and social media to regain a sense of control.

Mindfulness and grounding techniques can also help manage stress in the moment. Simple activities like deep breathing, journaling, meditation, or taking a walk can help center your mind and body when things feel overwhelming.

For many, seeking professional support is also a necessary step. Therapists, counselors, and support groups can provide coping strategies tailored to your unique experiences. There's no shame in asking for help, especially when the challenges feel bigger than what you can handle alone.

Finally, focusing on what you can control—your daily routine, your self-care practices, and how you engage with your community—can help create a sense of stability amidst uncertainty.

Our country will continue to evolve, and with each transition comes both challenge and opportunity. Taking care of your mental health during these times isn't just important—it's essential. Your emotional well-being matters. If you're struggling, reach out. Help is available, and you don't have to navigate this journey alone.



Can I Be Evicted for That?

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director

Getting an eviction notice is stressful, but Ohio law protects renters from being forced out without a legal reason. A landlord must follow proper steps and give notice before filing in court.

You can be evicted if you:

- Don't pay rent
- Break a rule in your lease (like having unauthorized guests or pets)
- Stay after your lease ends without signing a new agreement

Even in these cases, your landlord must:

- Give you a 3-day written notice before filing in court
- Get a court order to legally remove you
- Never lock you out, shut off your utilities, or remove your belongings without a court ruling

Your landlord cannot evict you for:

- Requesting repairs or reporting health and safety issues
- Joining a tenant group or standing up for your rights
- Your race, religion, gender, disability, family status, or other protected characteristic

These reasons may count as discrimination or retaliation, both of which are illegal.

If your landlord files an eviction case, you have the right to:

- Go to the court hearing and explain your side
- Bring documents, photos, or witnesses to support you
- Ask the judge for more time to move, depending on your situation
- Contact legal aid for free help with your case

Remember:

- A notice doesn't mean you have to leave immediately
- Save all letters, emails, and your lease
- Don't ignore court papers—eviction moves quickly, and acting fast helps

Evictions can be confusing and stressful, but you don't have to face them alone. Understanding your rights is the first step to protecting your home.

DRAGON EMPOWERMENT CENTER

ALocated within the Ashtabula Area City Schools, the DEC helps students and families with basic needs and support services. They offer food, clothing, hygiene items, tutoring, school supplies, and more — all free to those in need.

2300 Wade Ave, Ashtabula, OH 44004
(Room B116) - 440-855-0081

FREE SUMMER MEALS SUN MEALS PROGRAM

Children ages 1–18 (and qualifying young adults with disabilities) can receive free meals all summer long through SUN Meals, sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

Call 1-866-348-6479 to find a site near you.

LAKE-GEAUGA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

Low-income homeowners can apply for affordable repairs related to safety and health, including electrical and roof issues. This is not a free service but offers budget-friendly options.

Applications for Fall 2025: Sept. 15 – Nov. 15, 2025

<https://www.lake-geaugahabitat.org/repairprograms>

DID YOU KNOW.....?

By: Dana Pristchau, Housing Counselor

OHIO SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP)

Seniors can apply for vouchers to receive fresh, local produce from participating farmers markets.

Call 1-866-243-5678 to be connected to your local Area Agency on Aging to learn more about the program and get help with applying.

FREE SUMMER READING PROGRAM LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS

Students in grades K–8 can join the Lake County Captains Summer Reading Program! It's a free, fun, and prize-filled way to encourage reading over the summer. Kids earn Captain's rewards by reaching goals set by their teachers.

Learn more: www.milb.com/lake-county/community/readingprogram

SENIOR HOME REPAIR LAKE COUNTY

Our job training professionals focus on developing valuable skills that lead to well-paying jobs and fulfilling careers. For individuals aged 18–24, our programs offer general job readiness and customer service training, with opportunities for expanded training in high-demand occupations. We provide educational support for those pursuing a high school diploma or equivalency and offer paid work experiences year-round, including summer employment. Your journey to a more fulfilling life starts here.

440-285-1112 Located at 12611
Ravenwood Drive, Chardon Ohio
44024



STOP



DISCRIMINATION

VOICES UNVEILED: STORIES TO BREAK THE SILENCE



FHRC invites individuals to anonymously share their personal experiences of discrimination within our community. These stories will be compiled into a powerful book aimed at raising awareness and proving that discrimination remains a pressing issue. Together, we can spark change and create a more inclusive future. **Your story can inspire change.** Share your experience anonymously and help unveil the voices that need to be heard.

How to share?



Visit:
www.fhrc.org



Mail to :
Fair Housing Resource Center
1100 Mentor Ave.
Painesville, Ohio 44077



Send an Email:
Hollie@fhrc.org



Raising the Roof: Ohio Rules for Rent Increases

By: Hollie Rondini, Assistant Director

If you're renting in Ohio, you might be wondering how much your landlord can raise your rent—and when. The short answer: Ohio has no rent control, which means landlords can raise the rent by any amount they choose. But there are some rules they still have to follow.

First, the timing matters. If you have a month-to-month rental agreement, your landlord must give you at least 30 days' written notice before the increase takes effect. So, if they tell you today, the higher rent wouldn't start until 30 days from now.

If you have a lease with a set end date (like a one-year lease), the landlord cannot raise the rent until the lease ends—unless your lease says otherwise. When it's time to renew, they can offer a new lease with higher rent.

While landlords can raise the rent, they cannot do it for illegal reasons. For example, they can't raise your rent because you asked for repairs, reported a health or safety issue, or because of your race, religion, disability, or other protected status. That could be considered retaliation or discrimination, which is against the law.

If your rent goes up, ask for the increase in writing. Check your lease for any rent change rules, and keep records of all communication. If you think the increase is unfair or illegal, you can contact a fair housing agency or legal aid for help.

In short, rent can go up in Ohio, but it has to be done the right way. You don't have to accept a rent increase that feels like punishment or discrimination. Know your rights, and don't be afraid to ask questions or seek support.

Fair Housing Word Search

V	O	U	C	H	E	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	Y
N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	O	R	I	G	I	N	P
X	C	C	B	D	I	S	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y	C
T	I	N	C	L	U	S	I	V	E	P	X	Y	M	V
I	E	M	H	A	R	A	S	S	M	E	N	T	R	F
Z	O	Y	P	E	R	F	B	J	O	O	S	F	C	A
R	G	C	O	M	P	L	A	I	N	T	X	M	Z	U
C	R	A	R	N	D	W	F	M	D	V	C	Y	Z	O
O	F	K	S	E	X	G	U	R	I	O	X	J	W	R
L	S	K	L	A	S	R	A	C	E	L	O	U	S	H
O	A	C	C	O	M	M	O	D	A	T	I	O	N	P
R	E	T	A	L	I	A	T	I	O	N	V	A	S	Z
K	Y	P	T	D	L	H	T	E	N	A	N	T	L	X
D	I	S	C	R	I	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	Z
L	U	A	C	C	E	S	S	I	B	I	L	I	T	Y

Find These Words:

- Discrimination
- Nationalorigin
- Accessibility
- Accommodation
- Retaliation
- Harassment
- Disability
- Complaint
- Inclusive
- Familial
- Religion
- Voucher
- Tenant
- Color
- Race
- Sex



JOIN THE GEAUGA COUNTY HOUSING COALITION

The Geauga County Housing Coalition brings together organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to creating housing opportunities and improving resources in our community.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ **Stay Updated** – Learn about the latest housing programs and initiatives.
- ✓ **Build Connections** – Network with community leaders and housing professionals.
- ✓ **Collaborate & Innovate** – Help shape policies and solutions for housing challenges.

WHAT WE DO

Meetings Every Other Month – Discuss housing concerns & solutions.

A Strong, Supportive Network – Work alongside passionate advocates.

Share & Learn – Contribute ideas and gain valuable insights.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

Your involvement can make a real impact! Join us to be part of the conversation and the solution.

CONTACT US



Membership Coordinator: Carol Coggins, Siracki

Email: realtorcarolcoggins@gmail.com

Dear Housing Hollie,

I recently applied to rent an apartment and the landlord asked me for my credit report, pay stubs, rental history, and also wanted my social security number and a copy of my driver's license. It felt invasive. Is this legal? When does a landlord cross the line with application requirements?

Sincerely,

Doing Too Much



Housing



Dear Doing Too Much,

Great question—and a very common one. Landlords are permitted to request reasonable documentation to assess whether a tenant will be able to meet the lease obligations. This can include items like proof of income, identification, and credit history. However, there are limits.

A landlord must apply their screening criteria consistently to all applicants. If you suspect you're being asked for more documentation than others based on your race, national origin, familial status, or another protected class, that may be housing discrimination.

Additionally, landlords must protect any personal information they collect. If you feel your privacy could be compromised—especially with sensitive data like your Social Security number—ask how that information will be stored and who has access to it. If anything feels suspicious or discriminatory, don't hesitate to contact your local fair housing organization for guidance or to file a complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Hollie'.

Housing Hollie



Dear Housing Hollie,

I have a documented disability and need an emotional support animal (ESA) to help me manage my condition. But my apartment building has a strict "no pets" policy. When I mentioned my ESA to the manager, she said she'd have to charge a pet deposit. Can she do that?

Sincerely,

Not a Pet



Hollie



Dear Not a Pet,

The Fair Housing Act protects your right to have an assistance animal, which includes emotional support animals, when it is necessary for your disability—even if the property has a "no pets" policy. Landlords must make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

Critically, landlords may not charge extra fees or deposits for assistance animals. These animals are not considered pets under the law. However, you may be held responsible for any damage caused by the animal.

To request this accommodation, you should provide a written request along with documentation from a qualified professional verifying your disability and the need for the ESA. The housing provider must engage in an interactive process and cannot unreasonably delay or deny your request.

If your landlord persists in charging a deposit or refuses your ESA, that could be a violation of your fair housing rights. Reach out to a fair housing agency for support.

Sincerely,

Hollie

Housing Hollie





How to Turn Your Apartment into a Cozy Castle—on a Budget

BY: HOLLIE RONDINI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Not everyone gets to live in a tower with sweeping views and a roaring fireplace—but that doesn't mean your apartment can't feel just as cozy and special. With a few budget-friendly tweaks, you can turn your space into a warm, inviting retreat fit for royalty.

Set the Mood with Lighting

Good lighting transforms a room faster than almost anything else. Instead of relying on harsh overhead bulbs, try layering your lighting: string lights, battery-operated candles, or small clip-on lamps with warm-toned bulbs can bring soft, magical ambiance to your space—no wiring (or landlord approval) required.

Layer Textiles for a Regal Feel

From castles to cottages, comfort is all in the fabrics. Throw blankets, mismatched pillows, and layered rugs help soften a room and create warmth. Look for rich colors like deep green, burgundy, or gold to give your room a royal touch, even if you're shopping second-hand. Hanging a curtain panel behind your bed or over a plain wall can add an extra sense of elegance.

Decorate Without Damaging

Renters know the struggle: you want to decorate, but you don't want to lose your security deposit. Thankfully, removable wall decals, peel-and-stick wallpaper, and command hooks let you personalize your space without leaving a trace. Tapestries, fabric wall hangings, or framed art can add personality and warmth with very little effort.

Add a Touch of Greenery

Even a small plant can breathe life into a room. If you're not confident in your gardening skills, faux plants are an affordable and maintenance-free alternative. Display them in repurposed containers like mugs, jars, or thrifted planters for charm on a budget.

Add a Touch of Greenery

Even a small plant can breathe life into a room. If you're not confident in your gardening skills, faux plants are an affordable and maintenance-free alternative. Display them in repurposed containers like mugs, jars, or thrifted planters for charm on a budget.

Your Castle, Your Rules

At the end of the day, the coziest homes are the ones filled with personality. Whether it's your favorite book stacked beside your bed or a quirky wall hanging that makes you laugh—surround yourself with the things that make your space feel like yours.

You don't need a royal treasury to live in a castle—just a little creativity and heart.





JOIN

THE ASHTABULA COUNTY

HOUSING COALITION

Who are we?

The Ashtabula County Housing Coalition is a network of agencies, organizations, and businesses dedicated to improving housing opportunities in Ashtabula County.

Why Join?



Stay Informed – Get updates on local housing initiatives, programs, and services.



Network & Collaborate – Connect with industry professionals, community leaders, and housing advocates.



Be a Voice for Change – Share your insights and contribute to innovative housing solutions.

Join Us Today!

Your involvement strengthens our mission. Whether you're an expert, advocate, or concerned citizen, your voice matters!

Contact Us

For more information reach out to Alice Harden at aliceh@doyccac.org



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