

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

- 1. What is the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice?** Called an AI for short, it is a planning document that analyzes how well Rhode Island is expanding housing choice among members of the protected classes. Barriers to housing choice will be identified and an Action Plan will include strategies to eliminate the barriers.
- 2. What is fair housing?** It is an individual's right, established by federal law more than 50 years ago, to choose housing free from discrimination based on personal characteristics that have nothing to do with housing. It is the right to choose housing without regard to a person's race, color, religion, ancestral origin, sex, disability, age (18+), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, status as a victim of domestic abuse, housing status, military status, lawful source of income, or retaliation. Persons who are protected from discrimination by fair housing laws are referred to as members of protected classes.
- 3. What does fair housing mean for me as a Rhode Island resident?** Fair housing focuses on keeping your housing or your search for housing free from discrimination. It also includes having access to community assets such as employment, public transit, safe neighborhoods, quality schools—all those things that contribute to a good quality of life.
- 4. Why is Rhode Island preparing this document?** Annually the state receives funding from the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to carry out affordable housing and community development projects that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. HUD requires the state to prepare an AI to demonstrate that it (a) implements its housing programs without discrimination against members of protected classes and (2) works to expand access to community assets for all residents.

Consolidated Plan

- 1. What is the Consolidated Plan?** It is a planning document that identifies the affordable housing and community development needs in Rhode Island for the next five years.
- 2. Why is the state preparing this plan?** Annually the state receives Community Development Block Grant funds, HOME Partnership Investment funds, Emergency Solutions Grant funds, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds, Housing Trust Funds, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). To continue receiving these funds, Rhode Island is required to identify and prioritize its needs, then explain how it will address these needs through local projects.
- 3. What type of projects has the state used these funds for in the past?** Funds were invested to build new affordable housing units and rehabilitate older affordable housing units for renters and homeowners. Rental assistance was provided to help make monthly rent affordable for lower income households. Businesses were assisted, new jobs created, and public infrastructure projects were funded, including sidewalks, roads, and water and sewer lines.
- 4. Who benefits from these projects?** Lower income individuals and households can qualify by their income.

AI and Consolidated Plan

- 1. How can I participate in this process?** Complete an online survey in English at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/RIH2024> or in Spanish at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RIH2024-S> and let the state know what the needs are in your community. Plan to attend one of the Public Meetings or Pop-Up Events listed on the back of this page.
- 2. Who can I contact for more information?** Contact Jessica Bullock-Bonilla at jbullock-bonilla@rihousing.com.



POP-UP EVENTS

West Bay

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

9-10:45AM

Warwick Library Central Branch Lobby

600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02889

East Bay

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

4-6PM

Hope & Main Makers Market

691 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Northern RI

Monday, June 10, 2024

6:30-8:00PM

Woonsocket Harris Public Library

303 Clinton Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895

West Bay

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

12-2PM

Warwick Library Central Branch

600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI 02889

Washington County

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

4-6PM

North Kingstown Free Library

100 Boone Street, North Kingstown RI 02842

East Bay

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

12-2PM

Barrington Library

281 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806