

Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center
2218 24th Avenue • Gulfport, MS 39501

2008 MS Fair Housing Forums

September 25
9:00 a.m.

MS State Valley
University
New Business Education
Bldg
Medgar Evers Blvd.
Itta Bena, MS 38941

September 25
1:30 p.m.

MS Dept. of Education
359 North West St.
Jackson, MS 39205

September 26
9:00 a.m.

MS Gulf Coast
Community College
2226 Switzer Rd.
Gulfport, MS 39507

WHO does this impact?

- The Entire Gulf Coast community
 - But especially homeowners and renters who are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

WHY is this important?

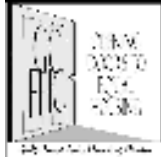
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to states and cities to build affordable housing, make infrastructure improvements and complete limited economic development projects.
- After Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi and other states received CDBG funds to rebuild areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.
- All CDBG funds are required to “affirmatively further fair housing.” Federal Fair housing law makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and/or familial status in a housing transaction.
- States and cities receiving CDBG funds must conduct an *Analysis of Impediments to Fair housing*, which examines whether the funds are serving the people protected by fair housing law, what roadblocks there are to fair housing, and if CDBG funds can be used to remove these roadblocks.

WHAT you can do?

- Contact the state about roadblocks to fair housing.
- Testify about your experience of housing discrimination at one of the upcoming meetings.
- Share your story about receiving aid through Phase I & Phase II of the Homeowners assistance program and/or applying for the small landlord program.

HOW you can do it?

- Testify at a meeting.
- Call our office and tell your story or visit www.makeitfair.com and download the SHARE YOUR COMMENT form. Then email, fax or mail to our office. We will submit it to the state.
- Send an email to msfairhousing@makeitfair.com



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Tips for testifying or submitting public comments

Community members:

Fair housing law protects you from discrimination (being treated differently) in a housing transaction based on your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and/or because you are a family with children. Housing transactions include:

- Selling/buying a home,
 - Insuring a home
 - Appraising a home
 - Renting a home
 - Receiving repairs
 - Amount of rent,
 - Security deposit
- If you feel you've been a victim of housing discrimination or that you've been treated differently in a rental, sales or home lending transaction, stand up and tell your story.
 - Remember you don't have to be an expert, but be sure to cover the 5Ws (who, what, when, where, how and why).
 - After you've told what's happened. Let the state know **what you want to happen**. Examples include:
 - Funding for investigation of fair housing law violations
 - Statewide fair housing law
 - Funding for education about what fair housing laws are and the roles and responsibilities for realtors, landlords and tenants.
 - Development of affordable housing
 - Development of accessible housing