

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?

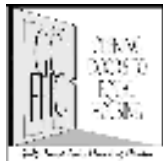
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to states and cities to build affordable housing, make infrastructure improvements and complete limited economic development projects.
- After Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi and other states 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

Practitioners/Nonprofit community/Community Advocates:

- **Who should be interested?**

- Organizations that serve and/or advocate on behalf of
 - Women
 - Children
 - People with disabilities
 - Immigrants
 - People of color
- Communities of color
- Organizations that encourage and protect freedom of religion

- **What should you say?**

- Leaders are encouraged to share stories /statistics about their members who may have suffered housing discrimination, including but not limited to
 - Trouble finding available housing
 - Being overcharged rent/security deposit/application fee
 - Stigma of being associated with any of these groups
 - Examples of being treated differently in a housing transaction because of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability and/or familial status
 - Community Development Block Grant Funds not being used to benefit your members
 - General knowledge of your membership, what fair housing is, and how it protects them
 - It's okay if your membership really doesn't know what fair housing is. That says there is a need for more for more fair housing education and outreach.

- **Let the state know what you want to happen. Examples include:**

- Fund investigations of fair housing law violations
- Make a statewide fair housing law
- Fund education initiatives about what fair housing laws are and the roles and responsibilities of realtors, landlords and tenants
- Develop affordable housing
- Develop accessible housing (rental and homes)