

The Fair Housing Center

of Greater Boston

"Working to eliminate housing discrimination and promote open communities throughout the region."

Volunteer Newsletter

Issue: #2

March/April 2008

Dear Testers,

Hello and happy spring. As we roll out of the winter and through the spring we are quite busy at FHCGB. In addition to advocating for victims of housing discrimination, conducting tests and reaching out to the community, we are preparing to celebrate our 10th anniversary and honor the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act (see below). Also we have been searching for a new person to join our staff as the Administrative Director ([job description](#)).

Over the next year we will be conducting a rather large number of tests. Some of you will be frequently asked to conduct tests. It is extremely important that everyone follows the testing procedures (see below), *attends a refresher training* (see below) and communicates with the Test Coordinator. For those of you who are not testing as often, you can still help. If you know of groups or organizations that serve people who could benefit from FHCGB's programs, or are aware of unfair or discriminatory housing practices, please refer them to us for outreach or investigation.

As always, thank you all for your contributions.

Sincerely,
Justin Monteiro

Program Summary: February '08 - March '08

From February, 1st 2008 to March 31, 2008 FHC conducted 13 paired tests and five unpaired tests that involved 34 individual test assignments. The 13 paired tests were complaint based or systemic. The tests conducted were designed to help determine if discrimination based on either race, family status, sex, disability or source of income occurred. Of the 18 tests, seven demonstrated differences in treatment or revealed practices that rose to

the level of illegal discrimination.

Additionally, two training events were held. On March 1st, seven new trainees successfully completed training. On April 5th, nine new trainees attended a tester training. Also, two testers attended the weekly tester refresher training and fulfilled the annual training requirement.

Thank you all for participating and supporting our mission.

Testers Needed!

FHC is looking to train new testers. Particularly we are in need of **African American and Caucasian males and females who appear to be in their late 20s to late 30s.**

If you know anyone who would like to participate in a training, please have them contact Justin at jmonteiro@bostonfairhousing.org or (617) 399-0491 x106

**Next full Tester Trainings:
May 3rd, 10 - 3
May 24th, 10 - 3**

Weekly Refresher Trainings

The FHC will conduct refresher trainings for current testers on the following dates and times through May 31st:

**Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
59 Temple Place, Suite #1105**

Testing is an invaluable tool for documenting discriminatory treatment and enforcing fair housing laws. To ensure that our test results are credible, it is important that testers have up-to-date training and are familiar with the FHC's testing program and procedures.

To be eligible to conduct tests each tester must participate, once a year, in refresher training. Testers who do not fulfill this requirement will not be asked to conduct tests.

Please contact Justin at (617) 399-0491 x 106 to schedule and allow for 24-hour advance cancellation notice if possible.

Test Procedures

Conducting a Test from Start to Finish in 10 Simple Steps:

The following list summarizes the testing procedure that is reviewed at tester trainings. Please reacquaint yourself with the steps.

1. Test Coordinator (TC) calls Tester to offer an assignment.
2. If Tester accepts, TC emails the test assignment.*
3. **Tester reviews the test assignment and calls TC to confirm and discuss.**
4. **Tester conducts test. After each phase of the test (phone call, visit, follow-up), Tester must contact TC to debrief.**
5. **Tester writes the test report and emails it to TC within 72 hours of the completion of the test.**

6. TC contacts tester with questions about test reports.
7. TC confirms reports are complete.
8. Tester prints, signs & mails report and reimbursement form (and receipts) to FHCGB.
9. TC contacts Tester to confirm receipt of reports and reimbursement form.
10. TC files reports and submits reimbursement form.

*For those testers who do not have convenient access to email, alternative methods of sharing information will be discussed.

40th/10th Anniversary Celebration

On Wednesday, May 21, the FHCGB will Celebrate our 10th Anniversary, also commemorating 40 years of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Please Join FHCGB Staff, Board, and Keynote Speaker **Governor Deval Patrick** to honor **Senator Edward Brooke**, Senate sponsor of the Fair Housing Act, along with 3 local pillars of fair housing: **Barbara Rabin**, and **Hubie and Kathy Jones**.

Wednesday, May 21, 6 - 8 pm at the Moakley Courthouse on Boston's Waterfront

Tickets are \$75, discounts available.

[Request an invitation!](#)

Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston

www.bostonfairhousing.org

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Make a donation to the Fair Housing Center through Wainwright Bank.

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