

## NEWS RELEASE

### GREATER NEW ORLEANS FAIR HOUSING ACTION CENTER

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NEW ORLEANS



FAIR  
HOUSING  
ACTION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 2, 2009  
[www.gnofairhousing.org](http://www.gnofairhousing.org)

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#### **FAIR HOUSING CENTER VOICES GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT HANO'S SECTION 8 VOUCHER WAIT LIST; URGES HANO TO AMEND PROCESS**

The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) has grave concerns about the process by which the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) is opening its Housing Choice Voucher ("Section 8") wait list. The wait list is available for application from September 6 to 12, 2009. This is the first time the application process has been opened in six years. HANO is using its website, the *Times Picayune* and the *Louisiana Weekly* as its sole means for marketing the opening of the wait list.

Because many low-income residents don't subscribe to the *Times Picayune* and don't have internet access, GNOFHAC is urging HANO to conduct TV and radio advertising to give the public adequate notice that the wait list will be open. Additionally HANO should keep the wait list open for a minimum of 30 days rather than a mere six days. Finally, HANO should accept voucher applications that it received as early as August 23<sup>rd</sup>, because its public notice regarding the waitlist opening has been confusing and misleading.

GNOFHAC Executive Director James Perry remarks, "Despite the intense need for affordable housing in Orleans Parish, the Section 8 wait list is opening up for the first time in six years. HANO is doing so in a manner that fails to properly notify New Orleans low-income residents. HANO must do a better job of tending to the needs of those of it serves."

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*The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a private non-profit organization. The Center was established by a group of concerned New Orleanians in 1995 with the help of the National Fair Housing Alliance and a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. GNOFHAC is dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination and furthering equal housing opportunities through education, outreach, advocacy, and enforcement of fair housing laws across the metro New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. The activities described in this release were privately funded.*

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