



Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing F.A.Qs

What is Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing?

Where you live determines a lot about *how* you live: the schools your children attend, the healthcare or jobs you have access to, how long it takes you to get there, the quality of your physical environment, your access to grocery stores and other businesses, the level of violent crime in your community and a host of other factors.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) encourages decision-makers in New Orleans to recognize the importance of *place* in promoting or prohibiting life outcomes, so that we can topple barriers and expand opportunity.

How does it work?

The AFFH rule provides valuable data to cities like New Orleans that receive federal funds. This can help inform spending decisions on where and how to develop neighborhood opportunity, because policy makers will be able to look at demographic trends, where concentrated poverty exists, where segregation persists or is growing, and how we as a city can work to overcome these challenges.

Why is Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing important?

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) can help cities like New Orleans to overcome a legacy of segregation.

Unequal access to vital community resources results in unequal access to life opportunity. AFFH can advance opportunity in New Orleans by shaping investments in housing, transportation, environment, health, education infrastructure, and economic development.

The AFFH rule also provides a framework that can help decision-makers plan for using their community development resources in a way that can offset other citywide forces such as systemic discrimination or gentrification.

Our Future

New Orleans, like all cities, faces ongoing structural and institutional barriers to fair housing—including a legacy of residential segregation—that can limit the options of all New Orleanians. These challenges especially burden people of color, people with disabilities and families with children.

A healthy, thriving city is welcoming to people of all backgrounds and abilities. A healthy economy supports families at all incomes. When we divide our communities, not only do we stand to lose the character of our city, but we also make it weaker and more vulnerable to fear and misunderstanding.

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing can help us to better understand barriers to neighborhood choice, and create local solutions to address local issues.