#### Education

Education and training is an effective way to foster awareness and prevent discrimination. Knowing and appreciating Fair Housing law helps facilitate compliance and the exercise of individual rights.

The Volunteers of America Dispute Resolution Center offers Fair Housing training and combined Renter Certification & Fair Housing training throughout the year.

For more information on our current training schedule, visit voaww.org/fairhousing or contact 425-339-1335, option 4.

### **Partnerships**

The Volunteers of America Dispute
Resolution Center is a partner of the
Snohomish County Human Rights
Commission and works in partnership
with the Washington State Human
Rights Commission and U.S.
Department of Housing & Urban
Development.

Volunteers of America Western Washington DOES NOT conduct Fair Housing investigations.

Fair Housing complaints must be filed with an enforcement agency:

- Washington State Human Rights Commission: 360-753-6770
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development: 800-877-0246 or 800-669-9777



# FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION & COUNSELING



425-339-1335 Dispute Resolution Center

Volunteers of America® WESTERN WASHINGTON PO Box 839 Everett, WA 98206-0839 voaww.org/fairhousing Funds made available through the Snohomish County Community Development Block Grant Program and Snohomish County Ending Homelessness Program.

This brochure is informational, not a restatement of the law. VOAWW does not provide legal services.

## Do You Feel You've Been Treated Unfairly?

The Volunteers of America Dispute Resolution Center actively supports and promotes Fair Housing through education, outreach, and counseling to ensure every person has the opportunity to secure the housing they desire without discrimination.

Fair Housing is the right of all people to be free from discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of housing.

# Signs of Possible Discrimination

You are denied after you apply for a rental and you believe it is because of your sexual orientation, race, or based upon membership in one of the protected classes.

You are told over the phone an apartment is available. When you arrive to view it, they tell you that it is not.

After making a reasonable accommodation request to have a service animal, you receive a termination of tenancy notice.

You are told that an apartment isn't right for families or children.

## Federal & Washington State Protected Classes

- Sex
- Disability
- Race & color
- Marital status
- Familial status
- Religion & creed
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Military & veteran status
- National & ancestry
- Citizenship & immigration status

The Volunteers of America Dispute Resolution Center provides Fair Housing counseling, where tenants can voice their Fair Housing concerns and learn next steps. These steps may include: training, mediation, support in writing letters or making complaints.