



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Human Services Department

Catherine Lester, Director

Date: April 3, 2017

To: Seattle City Council

From: Catherine Lester, Human Services Director (206-386-1143)

Subject: Assessment of Fair Housing

The 2017 City of Seattle and Seattle Housing Authority's Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) contains an analysis of data that highlights issues of segregation and integration in Seattle based upon the seven federally protected classes: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and handicap. The City has a strong response based on the commitment to the Race and Social Justice Initiative, HALA, the Equitable Development Initiative, and the Equity and the Environment Agenda.

CONTEXT:

Grantees receiving HUD CDBG, HOPWA, ESG, HOME funds and all Public Housing Authorities are required to respond to the requirements of HUD's Assessment of Fair Housing Rule requiring jurisdictions to make a baseline assessment of their compliance with Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The AFH requirements make clear that HUD's purpose in adopting the rule is to ensure that public and private policies, programs, contracting, and resource allocations: 1) take "meaningful action" to **affirmatively further** fair housing and economic opportunity; and 2) **remove barriers** to compliance with the Fair Housing Act of 1968; and 3) not take action that is **inconsistent with the duty** to further fair housing.

While the City of Seattle is required to comply with the Fair Housing Act regardless of receipt of federal funds, HUD grantees are required to demonstrate compliance with affirmatively furthering fair housing by conducting an AFH prior to allocation of 2018 funds. Successful submission and approval of the AFH is required for the City of Seattle to access the 2018 grant allocation of approximately \$14 million in CDBG/HOME/HOPWA/ESG funds.

IMPLEMENTATION & NEXT STEPS:

The AFH includes a 'workplan' element that outlines how the City and Seattle Housing Authority will address the identified issues. The AFH is now an established compliance report which requires updates and review. Affirmatively furthering fair housing activities and results tracking will need to be integrated into City departments' on-going work plans, similar to integration of RSJI into planning, policy and procedure, and program implementation activities.

The AFH report will require Mayor's approval and Council adoption by Ordinance. The City of Seattle will submit its AFH jointly with the Seattle Housing Authority.

- April 19, 2017: Close of required public comment period
- April 19, 2017: Council Committee briefing, public hearing, and possible vote
- April 24, 2017: Final Council Adoption
- May 15, 2017: Deadline for submission to HUD

Reference Document:

Full Council briefing presentation