

Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) Status Update

What is an Assessment of Fair Housing?

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules clarify existing fair housing obligations with a streamlined process to analyze the local fair housing landscape and set fair housing priorities and goals through an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH). The rule identifies four fair housing issues that program participants will assess:

- Patterns of integration and segregation;
- Racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty;
- Disparities in access to opportunity; and
- Disproportionate housing needs.

Why is the City of Austin Coordinating Regionally on an Assessment of Fair Housing at this time?

Program participants are strongly encouraged to work together to conduct and submit a joint or regional AFH. Not only do many fair housing issues cross jurisdictional boundaries, but all program participants will be required to conduct a regional analysis whether or not they choose to work with regional partners. Working regionally may help program participants ensure that their goals are consistent and collaborative, thereby making their goals more likely to be effective. Furthermore, there may be resource savings and less duplication of effort by working with partners. The rule provides flexibility to encourage such collaborations, including the alignment of planning processes.

What is the Status of the Regional Assessment of Fair Housing?

The Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) interlocal agreement is currently under review by the City of Austin's Law Department. The document has also been sent over to Travis County's attorney for their initial review. A substantial portion of the language in this draft agreement builds off of a previous interlocal agreement drafted between the City of Austin and Travis County for an Analysis of Impediments (the predecessor to an AFH) and a Comprehensive Housing Market Study in 2015. The City of Austin is estimated to pay approximately \$75,000 as its portion of the consultant fee.

Per HUD guidelines, the City of Austin has completed all requirements for notifying HUD of the City's intention to coordinate on a regional AFH. A finalized Interlocal Agreement will not be available to present to the Austin City Council until after all of the 10 other partners have reviewed the document and officially agreed to enter into a procurement process to contract to secure a consultant. NHCD is expecting this process to be complete by the end of June.

Timeline

The scope of work is being reviewed by all 11 partners involved in the AFH.

Jurisdiction	Date of Approval by Governing Body Proposed
Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA)	May 18, 2017
Georgetown Housing Authority	May 25, 2017
City of Austin	June 15, 2017
Travis County	June 27, 2017
Williamson County	June 27, 2017
Taylor Housing Authority	June 27, 2017
City of Pflugerville	June 27, 2017
Housing Authority of Travis County	July 6, 2017
City of Round Rock	July 13, 2017
Round Rock Housing Authority	Pending
Granger Housing Authority	Pending

- A tentative due date for the final scope of work document is set for June 28, 2017.

- A final agreement and scope of work will be finalized by mid-July so an RFP can be put out before the start of August.
- The end goal is to have a consultant contracted before December 2017.