



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary
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January 20, 2016

Dear Sir or Madame:

The West Virginia Human Rights Commission, in association with the West Virginia Housing Development Fund is announcing its Fifth (5th) Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest in honor of Fair Housing Month (April). This information was also sent out to the schools via the WV Department of Education intranet to be relayed to all West Virginia middle and high schools on January 7, 2016.

Included in this packet, please find a three-page handout to distribute to your middle and high school students, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. These pages will provide you with all of the necessary information students will need to create an original poster and submit it to the Commission for judging. Monetary prizes will be awarded to the students' who create the top three posters chosen by our panel of judges. Also, the top two first place winner's schools will receive a monetary award for school supplies.

Teachers may feel free to discuss the information included herein with their classes, if the curriculum allows, emphasizing the importance of Fair Housing and the West Virginia Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing. Teachers are also more than welcome to facilitate the students' participation in this contest, or they can simply disseminate the information to their students.

After completing further research, on the 21st Century Skills Curriculum, we believe that the poster contest will help inform and offer students a better understanding of "exhibiting leadership, ethical behavior, respect for others; accept responsibility for personal actions considering the impact on others; take the initiative to plan and execute tasks; and interact

productively as a member of a group” (21C.S.9-12.3).¹ As well as touch on some pertinent points from the Next Generation CSO Social Studies requirements²:

- SS.6.H.CL5.1 Trace the development of Civil Rights for minority groups in the United State (e.g. women and African Americans).
- SS.6.H.CL5.2 Identify key figures and key events in movements for civil rights.
- SS.7.C.2 Recognize and examine patriotism and nationalism.
- SS.8.C.3 Identify, analyze and evaluate the responsibilities, privileges and rights as citizens of the state of West Virginia found in the state and national constitutions.
- SS.9.C.3 Research and categorize multiple current and historical world aid organizations and assess the importance of global volunteerism as a 21st century citizen (e.g. Human Rights Campaign).
- SS.10.C.5 Identify the issues regarding the evolution of United States citizenship and evaluate responsibilities and rights of United States citizens (e.g. landownership, race, gender and age).
- SS.11.H.CL6.2 Investigate and cite examples of intolerance, prejudice, discrimination, and segregation (e.g. Black Codes and Jim Crow laws).
- SS.12.C.1 Strive to become vigilant, informed citizens who actively participate in the preservation and improvement of American government through community service.
- SS.12.C.3 Demonstrate that the purpose of American government is the protection of personal, political, and economic rights of citizens as evidenced by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Constitutional Amendments, and the ideas of those involved in the establishment of American government.

¹ <http://wveis.k12.wv.us/Teach21/public/21C/21C.cfm>

² http://wveis.k12.wv.us/Teach21/public/ng_cso/NG_CSO.cfm

SS.12.G.1

Use Census Data and public records to identify patterns of change and continuity to understand the impact of the following on society:

- Zoning
- Migration
- Ethnicity
- Income
- Gender Differences
- Age Differences
- Education
- Voting Behavior
- Family Structure

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact **Tiffany Caldwell, Housing Investigator II**, or **Laura Savilla, Housing Secretary** at **(304) 558-2616**.

We hope that this contest will provide middle and high school students and their parents with a valuable opportunity to learn more about West Virginia's anti-discriminatory housing laws and will promote and encourage values of fairness and equality for all of our citizens. We look forward to seeing the creativity of the middle and high school students in our great state!

Thank you,

West Virginia Human Rights Commission &
The West Virginia Housing Development Fund

West Virginia Human Rights Commission 2016 Fair Housing Poster Contest

April is Fair Housing Month, and in an effort to celebrate and commemorate the Fair Housing Laws in West Virginia, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission is hosting its 5th Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to demonstrate non-discriminatory housing for all people regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, blindness, handicap or familial status. The contest theme is "Fair Housing: Different Faces, Same Dream." Each poster should demonstrate the positive message that all West Virginian's have the right to fair housing and lending practices and, thus, have the right to live free from discrimination in the housing of their choosing.

Who is eligible? There will be two separate categories:

- All middle school students (grades 6-8) in West Virginia's public and private schools;
- All high school students (grades 9-12) in West Virginia's public and private schools.

How do I enter?

- You must create an original color poster - landscape format, no larger and/or no smaller than 8.5" x 11" demonstrating the theme: **"Fair Housing: Different Faces, Same Dream"**
- Any materials can be used: paintings, crayons, markers, pencils, mixed media, photography, collages, etc...
- All entries must be labeled on the back with: student's name, student's age, student's grade, student's school name, and student's art or other sponsoring teacher and teacher's contact information.
- Submit, along with your poster, the entry form attached.
- Student may not submit multiple entries, and may not work in pairs.
- Computer clip art, pictures from magazines and other print media, or any other copyrighted brand or product images **will not** be accepted.

What are the prizes?

The top three winners from the junior high and high school categories will be chosen by a panel of West Virginia Human Rights Commission employees and co-sponsor representatives, and they will receive:

- **1st place - \$150**
- **2nd place - \$75**
- **3rd place - \$50**

In addition, the two 1st place winner's schools will receive \$100.00 for school supplies. (Note: The school's administrative staff has the discretion to determine how the monetary award is spent on school supplies.)

A picture of each contestant's poster will be placed on the West Virginia Human Rights Commission's website at: <http://www.hrc.wv.gov>. All honorable mention posters will also be placed on the Commission's website.

All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, April 12, 2016, to be considered for top prizes.

Please **fill out the entry form** below and **send it along with your entry** in order to be considered for a prize. Please be sure information is legible and complete or child will be disqualified.

Entrant's Name: _____
Age: _____ Grade: _____
Home Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____
Parent's Name: _____
Parent's E-Mail: _____
School Name/Address: _____
Teacher's Name _____ Teacher's E-Mail: _____
<i>By signing this form, I hereby grant permission to have my child's name, age, school, and artwork appear in publications distributed by the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.</i>
Signature: _____ Date: _____

What is Fair Housing? The West Virginia Fair Housing Act states that it is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing, in the terms and conditions of that sale or rental, or in financing of housing because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, blindness, disability or familial status (presence of children under the age of 18).

What are some common examples of Fair Housing violations?

- An example of housing discrimination occurs when someone tells your family that they cannot rent an apartment or buy a house because they have children.
- A second example of housing discrimination happens when someone tells an African-American or Hispanic family that they have to pay more money for an apartment than a Caucasian family.
- A third example of housing discrimination would be an African American landlord telling a Caucasian couple that the apartment has already been rented when, in fact, it is still available.
- Another example of housing discrimination occurs if a blind person is not allowed to rent an apartment because they have a service dog.
- “Steering” – a realtor only shows apartments or houses in certain neighborhoods that are prominent in a specific race or national origin.

Purpose of the contest:

- To create awareness in middle school and high school aged students of the importance of providing equal opportunities to people of all races, colors, genders, etc.
- To creatively express an understanding of today’s fair housing related challenges

A note to teachers and parents:

Please note that a parent’s signature is required on each participant’s entry form giving permission for that child’s name, age, school, and artwork to be distributed in publications and displayed at Fair Housing events throughout the state. Entry forms without a parent’s and/or guardian’s signature will be disqualified from the contest.

Original artwork will not be returned to the contestant; however, if the contestant wishes to have their artwork back, they can stop by and/or contact the West Virginia Human Rights Commission at the address listed below after June 15, 2016, to retrieve their artwork.

For more information or with questions or concerns, please contact:

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Sponsored by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund