



# SOURCE OF INCOME PROTECTIONS

## WHAT RENTERS NEED TO KNOW

### NEW PROTECTIONS

On January 1, 2023, source of income will be a protected class under the Illinois Human Rights Act.

For renters, this means that any legal, verifiable source of income or housing assistance payment, must be treated the same by landlords as employment income.

If you are denied housing or treated unfairly, you can seek legal help.

### SOURCE OF INCOME

Source of income is defined as “the lawful manner by which an individual supports himself or herself and his or her dependents.”

Examples:

- Housing Choice Vouchers
- Veteran’s Benefits
- Homeless Prevention Programs
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance
- Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF)
- Child Support
- Alimony

### UNDER THE NEW LAW, LANDLORDS CANNOT:

- Advertise a preference for a certain type of income. For example, “must have proof of employment.”
- Deny a certain type of income. "No Housing Choice Voucher or Sec. 8."
- Refuse to accept rental subsidies such a Housing Choice Voucher program, or rental assistance.
- Refuse to complete voucher paperwork for assistance programs.
- Treat renters differently based on their source of income. For example, charging different rent amounts, security deposits, or other fees for renters who use housing subsidies.
- Impose different terms, conditions, privileges, or services because of how an individual or household pays for rent

**FLIP OVER FOR MORE INFO ...**

## REPORT DISCRIMINATION IF...

- Proof of employment is needed to process a housing application.
- Your application is rejected/stalled once your source of income is known.
- Different fees/rent are required because of your source of your income.
- A landlord refuses to complete necessary paperwork or participate in an inspection for your rental subsidy to be approved.
- There is a policy requiring that voucher holders earn an income of 2-3 times the TOTAL rent, instead of 2-3 times the portion of rent that the tenant is responsible for.

## DETAILS NEEDED:

Collect as much information and record as many details as possible that will help in making a complaint. Make a record of when the incident took place and keep the related ad, email or text in a safe place. Include details like:

- the first and last name of the person you spoke to,
- the time and date of when it happened,
- the address of the housing you are trying to rent,
- and what happened or was said.

## WHERE TO GET HELP:

### CHICAGO

[Access Living](#) (for people with disabilities)  
312-640-2106 TTY: 312-640-2102  
civilrightsintake@accessliving.org  
accessliving.org

[Legal Aid Chicago](#)  
(serves all of Cook County)  
312-423-5909  
legalaidchicago.org

[Northside Community Resources](#)  
773-338-7722 Ext.16  
northsidecommunityresources.org

[UIC Law Fair Housing Legal Clinic](#)  
312-786-2267  
law-fairhousingclinic@uic.edu  
<https://law.uic.edu/fairhousing>

### OUTSIDE OF CHICAGO

[HOPE Fair Housing Center](#)  
630-690-6500  
hopefair.org

[Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council](#)  
314-534-5800  
ehocstl.org

[Open Communities](#)  
847-501-5760  
open-communities.org

[South Suburban Housing Center](#)  
708-957-4674  
southsuburbanhousingcenter.org

[Prairie State Legal Services Fair Housing Project](#)  
855-FHP-PSLS (855-347-7757)  
fairhousing@pslegal.org