



THE MARYLAND HOME ACT

In 2020, Maryland passed the Housing Opportunities Made Equal Act, which adds Source of Income to the list of protected classes in Maryland.

WHAT IS THE MARYLAND HOME ACT?

The Fair Housing Act defines discrimination broadly as any attempt to prohibit or limit free and fair housing choice based on membership in a protected class. By refusing to accept Housing Choice Vouchers or creating additional barriers for voucher holders or other tenants who use a non-traditional source of income, landlords limit access to housing.

SOURCE OF INCOME (SOI)

The income must be legal, verifiable, and regular. Some examples include:

- Employment wages
- 1099 wages/freelance income
- Housing choice vouchers
- Retirement income
- Social Security (SSI or SSDI)
- Child Support or Alimony

It's a myth that voucher holders don't pay rent! Typically, they pay 30-40% of their monthly income towards rent.

SOI DISCRIMINATION

By refusing to accept Housing Choice Vouchers or creating additional barriers for voucher holders, landlords limit access to housing. Some examples include:

- Advertising that includes language that implies the landlord will not accept vouchers.
- Using a separate application process for voucher holders
- Not including the voucher amount so the tenant can't qualify under the income qualifications
- Requiring voucher holders to move in on the 1st of the month
- Intentionally pricing a unit beyond what a voucher would cover

HELP IS AVAILABLE!

If you need assistance with a landlord-tenant issue that doesn't involve financial assistance, or a Fair Housing issue, please visit our website. **If you need help with eviction, call 211 and ask for the Coordinated Eviction Prevention Intake.**