

# *LGBT Housing Rights*

According to 515.01 of the City of Canton Municipal code, the city must do its best to “assure all its residents of equal and fair housing opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, handicap, familial status, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.” State and federal fair housing laws previously protected against most forms of discrimination, but the sexual orientation and gender identity aspects were not added to the City of Canton Municipal code until 2012. The following are some examples of unlawful housing discrimination when committed because of sexual orientation or gender identity:

- Intimidating or harassing tenants
- Refusing to rent, sell, or offer housing-related services
- Stating that housing is unavailable when it in fact is available
- Treating tenants differently when providing repairs or services
- Apply different rules or rental amounts
- Steering people to rent in certain sections of the city
- Telling property owners to sell when the character of the neighborhood changes
- Discriminatory advertising



Additionally in 2012, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enacted the “HUD LGBT Rule” in order to ensure equal access to all HUD-funded housing programs. This rule:

- Requires owners and operators of HUD assisted housing, or housing whose financing is insured by HUD, to make housing available without regard to the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- Prohibits lenders from using sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status as a basis to determine a borrower’s eligibility for FHA-insured mortgage financing.
- Prohibits owners and operators of HUD assisted housing or housing insured by HUD from asking about an applicant or occupant’s sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status for the purpose of determining eligibility or otherwise making housing available.
- Clarifies that all otherwise eligible families, regardless of marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity will have the opportunity to participate in HUD programs.

If you would like to report discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, or to inquire more about your rights and responsibilities, please contact the City of Canton Fair Housing Department at 330-438-4133. We are located at **218 CLEVELAND AVE SW, 6<sup>TH</sup> FL., CANTON, OH 44702.**



**City of Canton Fair Housing Assistance Program**



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**