

## Fair Housing Fridays, Episode 2: “Tenants’ Rights and Renting during COVID-19” with Erika Johnson of Vermont Legal Aid and Karin Ames of Vermont Tenants

### Resources

#### CVOEO Programs:

- [Fair Housing Project](#) (For support if you suspect you are experiencing housing discrimination) 802-660-3456 Ext. 106
- [Vermont Tenants](#) (Support for tenants ): (802) 864-0099
- [Chittenden Community Action Housing Assistance](#) (If you are at risk of losing housing) 802-863-6248

[Vermont Legal Aid](#): 1-800-889-2047

#### [vtlawhelp.org](https://vtlawhelp.org)

- COVID-19 Coronavirus: Legal and Benefits Updates for Vermonters:  
<https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates>
- Reasonable modifications/ accommodations form:  
<https://vtlawhelp.org/disability-request-housing-accommodations-or-modifications>
- Updates for renting during the Coronavirus:  
<https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates#rent>
- General Legal and Benefits updates during the Coronavirus :  
<https://vtlawhelp.org/coronavirus-updates>

#### Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 information and resources:

<https://humanservices.vermont.gov/help-and-resources/covid-19-information>

COVID-19, Illegal Housing Discrimination, and Protections for People with Disabilities and Those Who Care for Them under the Fair Housing Act:

[https://nationalfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Disability-Research\\_April-9-2020.pdf](https://nationalfairhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Disability-Research_April-9-2020.pdf)

#### HUD statement on Fair Housing and COVID-19:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/FHEO/documents/secretary%20fh%20statement%20covid-19%204.3.20.pdf>

#### COVID-19 Housing Policy Scorecard:

To better understand the steps states have taken to prevent homelessness during and after the pandemic, the Eviction Lab and Columbia Law School’s Professor Emily Benfer have developed a policy scorecard for each state, distilling the contents of thousands of newly-released emergency orders, declarations, and legislation into a clear set of critical measures included in, and left out of, state-level pandemic responses related to eviction and housing: <https://evictionlab.org/covid-policy-scorecard/>

# Fair Housing is Your Right!

Fair housing is the right to rent, buy, or finance housing free from discrimination. People who are looking for housing should only be judged on their qualifications, such as ability to pay or rental history.

If you have been treated unfairly because of...

**RACE • COLOR • NATIONAL ORIGIN • RELIGION • FAMILY STATUS • SEX  
DISABILITY • AGE • MARITAL STATUS • SEXUAL ORIENTATION • GENDER IDENTITY  
RECEIPT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE • ABUSE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING**

... when renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, obtaining housing insurance, seeking housing assistance, or in other housing-related activities, then you have experienced illegal discrimination.

## Housing discrimination is against the law.

*Discrimination is not always obvious and can take many forms. It may happen when a landlord refuses to rent you an apartment, tells you it is unavailable when it is vacant, steers you toward*

*a different location, or if the terms and conditions of your lease are different from those of the landlord's other tenants. Illegal discrimination can also happen in advertisements.*

### If you have been discriminated against in housing, contact:

- Vermont Human Rights Commission  
(802) 828-1625, 1-800-416-2010  
1-877-294-9200 (TDD)  
[hrc.vermont.gov](http://hrc.vermont.gov)
- Vermont Legal Aid / Legal Services Vermont  
1-800-889-2047  
[vtlawhelp.org](http://vtlawhelp.org)

### Tenant rights & referrals:

- CVOEO Vermont Tenants Hotline  
(802) 864-0099  
[vttenants.org](http://vttenants.org)

### Help stabilizing housing & preventing homelessness:

- CVOEO Housing Assistance Program  
(802) 863-6248 ext. 4  
[cvoeo.org/housing-assistance](http://cvoeo.org/housing-assistance)

### More resources:

- CVOEO Fair Housing Handbooks  
Available in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, Nepali, and Somali at [www.cvoeo.org/FHP-resources](http://www.cvoeo.org/FHP-resources)

Contact the **Fair Housing Project** to learn more about your rights, access resources, schedule trainings, and join the Thriving Communities campaign — a statewide initiative dedicated to promoting housing affordability and inclusiveness:

**Fair Housing Project of CVOEO**  
(802) 660-3456 x 106 • [fhp@cvoeo.org](mailto:fhp@cvoeo.org)

 [thrivingcommunitiesvt.org](http://thrivingcommunitiesvt.org)

  [thrivingcommunitiesvt](https://www.facebook.com/thrivingcommunitiesvt)

 [VTFairHousing](https://twitter.com/VTFairHousing) | [ThrivingVermont](https://www.facebook.com/ThrivingVermont)

