



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**FAIR HOUSING IS STILL IMPORTANT, AND STILL THE LAW**

April is Fair Housing Month, and the current COVID-19 pandemic is challenging the ability of many Chicagoans to find or retain housing on an equal basis. Many businesses have temporarily closed or reduced hours leading to record unemployment seemingly overnight. Many people are struggling to pay their rent, and many are in danger of losing their homes.

In the face of this, landlords are screening potential tenants perhaps more closely than they ever have before. While considering criteria such as employment history, income, and credit are standard acceptable practices in renting, the CCHR wants to remind everyone that housing discrimination is still illegal, pandemic or no pandemic.

The Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination based on fourteen protected classes including source of income. This includes all lawful sources of income, and from any lawful occupation including those in the service industry such as wait staff, cooks, and baristas. The CCHR will continue to enforce the ordinance and investigate complaints of fair housing discrimination and hold violators accountable.

We understand that COVID-19 has had a profound effect on life as we know it, but it still is not a pass for discrimination. Let's continue to practice Fair Housing, not just through April, or through this pandemic, but throughout the year.