



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3423

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See report: <http://charlestoncounty.org/Departments/CommunityServices/AI%202011.pdf>

## County Recognizes National Fair Housing Month

*Community Services Department fights discrimination in fair housing choice*

[Charleston County Government](#) recognizes April as National Fair Housing month. As a [U.S. Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) Entitlement Community, the County is charged with analyzing impediments that the community may experience to [fair housing](#) choice.

Over the past year, Charleston County worked in collaboration with the City of Charleston and the City of North Charleston to examine any policies and practices that may limit residents' ability to be free from discrimination when choosing housing. The result of the efforts is a report, called the [Analysis of Impediments \(AI\)](#), which assembles fair housing information, identifies any existing barriers that limit housing choice, and proposes actions to overcome those barriers.

The analysis concluded in 2011, and the AI identifies several impediments that the County will continue to address both directly and indirectly.

"Our analysis showed the need for additional community education regarding fair housing—what it is, who it affects and who is held accountable," said Christine DuRant, Assistant County Administrator for [Charleston County Community Services](#). "Therefore, our next steps are to increase fair housing educational and outreach activities for the community at large and to hold workshops and produce market-specific information aimed at professionals in the real estate, property management and lending markets."

The AI is a review of impediments or barriers that affect the rights of fair housing choice. It covers public and private policies, practices and procedures affecting housing choice. Impediments to fair housing choice are defined as any actions, omissions, or decisions that restrict, or have the effect of restricting, the availability of housing choices based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin. The AI serves as the basis for fair housing planning, provides essential information to policy makers, administrative staff, housing providers, lenders and fair housing advocates, and assists in building public support for fair housing efforts. Conducting an analysis of impediments is required for all Urban Entitlement communities.

### For More Information:

- Those who believe they are the victims of housing discrimination should contact:
  - [Charleston Trident Urban League Fair Housing](#) hotline at (843) 579-7578 (Para más información de Vivienda Justa por favor contáctenos a nuestra Línea de Vivienda Justa 843-579-7578)
  - HUD at 1 (800) 669-9777 (voice), (800) 927-9275 (TTY)
- Additional information, including the AI, is available on the:
  - County's Community Services Department webpage at <http://charlestoncounty.org/Departments/CommunityServices/AI%202011.pdf>
  - HUD website at [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing).
    - Follow "ChasCountyGov" ([www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov](http://www.twitter.com/ChasCountyGov)) on Twitter -

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