

Special IHCD A Info- A Recap of Fair Housing Month



In January, J. Jacob "Jake" Sipe was named Executive Director of IHCD A by [Governor Pence](#) and [Lt. Governor Ellspermann](#) after serving as interim executive director since July.

Since taking office, Jake has been traveling throughout Indiana meeting with partners, stakeholders and local government officials in an effort to ensure IHCD A's funding strategies and priorities are communicated as well as to engage in the local needs of the communities we serve throughout the state.

For example, the [Listening Sessions 2013](#) series kicked off in late March and will continue through early May.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback regarding IHCD A and our programs and initiatives, feel free to utilize the [Feedback for our Executive Director](#) tab on the [IHCD A website](#) or email [Jake](#) directly.



Each year, the month of April is designated as National Fair Housing Month. At IHCD A every month is a fair housing month as we continually strive to ensure and enforce fair housing requirements in every program and initiative we administer.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain ways IHCD A and other state agencies are ensuring fair housing in Indiana. After all as the tagline states: Fair Housing is not an option. It's the law!

In April 1968, Congress passed the federal Fair Housing Act as part of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The primary purpose of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 was to protect the buyer/renter of a dwelling from seller/landlord discrimination. Its primary prohibition makes it unlawful to refuse to sell, rent to, or negotiate with any person because of that person's inclusion in a protected class, which at the time included:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National Origin

Added in 1974:



IHCD A Fair Housing Activities

Check out RED Notice 13-12 which provides a summary of recent IHCD A Fair Housing events.

RED 13-12: [Fair Housing Month- IHCD A Activities](#)

IHCD A will also be attending the second annual Housing and Community Resource Fair, "Building Communities through Innovative Resources" presented by Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance, the NW Indiana Banker Community Council, the Lake County Housing Taskforce, and the Continuum of Care of Northwest Indiana.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 25th at the Wicker Park Social Center located at 8554 Indianapolis Blvd in Highland.

Test Your Fair Housing Knowledge

An apartment building owner who rents to people of all age groups decides that families with younger children can only rent in one particular building and not in others because younger children tend to make lots of noise and may bother other tenants.

This is not lawful.

Notwithstanding the rationale presented for differential treatment of families with children—that

If you are hosting an event such as a groundbreaking, ribbon cutting, or open house and would like IHCD to post it on our [website](#) or you would like to invite IHCD to participate, please email [Emily Duncan](mailto:Emily.Duncan@ihcda.in.gov).



The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD), chaired by Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, creates housing opportunity, generates and preserves assets, and revitalizes neighborhoods by investing financial and technical resources in the development efforts of qualified partners throughout Indiana. Growing Indiana's economy starts at home.

For more information on IHCD please visit www.ihcda.in.gov.

For updates from Lt. Governor Ellspermann and the agencies she oversees, sign up at www.lg.in.gov.

- Gender

Added in 1988:

- Disability
- Familial Status (the presence or anticipated presence of children under 18 in a household)

IHCD works closely with the [Indiana Civil Rights Commission](#) (ICRC) as well as the [Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana](#) (FHCCI) to ensure fair housing education, advocacy, and implementation are actively promoted and practiced throughout Indiana.

In addition to the ongoing collaboration, IHCD once again partnered with ICRC, FHCCI, HUD, the Back Home in Indiana Alliance and accessABILITY to bring greater awareness and understanding regarding the rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act with the 2013 conference, "[Equal Housing is STILL the Issue](#)" which took place last Thursday, April 18th at the Indiana Government Center.

I was able to take part in a panel discussion with ICRC Deputy Director and General Counsel Akia Haynes and FHCCI Executive Director Amy Nelson entitled "Leadership Listens." We took questions, provided clarification and gathered suggestions from our partners and industry leaders in attendance.

We are proud to partner for special events celebrating April as Fair Housing Month and we remain steadfast in our enforcement of Fair Housing and Civil Rights activities, which are required of all

children make noise and may bother other tenants—federal law does not permit such actions in most apartment settings.

The owner in this scenario rents to people of all age groups and, therefore, the apartment complex is not restricted to seniors only. Based on current federal law, landlords may not, under these circumstances, treat families with children under the age of 18 different from others, either with respect to building assignment or in any other way.

IHCD Compliance Documents

As a friendly reminder, if you are an award recipient and want to ensure you are in compliance with all Fair Housing and Civil Rights Activities (before we come out to monitor your program) or are considering applying for IHCD funding and would like to review the compliance requirements, please visit our partner website- www.in.gov/myihcda and use the Developers and Property Managers tab to click on Compliance and then Compliance Manuals and Forms.

Or simply click here: <http://www.in.gov/myihcda/2401.htm>.

IHCDA award recipients.

The Fair Housing Act ensured that potential tenants were no longer faced with blatant discrimination like signage and protestors, but unfortunately discrimination still exists, just in more subtle ways.

It is up to all of us working to further affordable housing opportunities throughout Indiana to ensure we are aware of and invested in what is occurring in our organizations, developments and communities.

If you ever have any questions, need clarification regarding fair housing, or have suggestions on ways IHCDA can further our efforts, please do not hesitate to contact either myself at jsipe@ihcda.in.gov or IHCDA Special Projects Manager, Brian Philips at bphilps@ihcda.in.gov.

May we all take the time to ensure Fair Housing and Civil Rights activities are celebrated in April and practiced throughout the year.

~Jake Sipe

IHCDA Executive Director