



Action. Access. Progress.

## **Source-of-Income Discrimination is Illegal in Philadelphia!**

### **1. Is it illegal to discriminate against someone because they use a housing voucher to pay their rent in Philadelphia?**

Yes! According to Philadelphia's local fair housing law, a landlord cannot discriminate against someone based on their "source of income." That means it is illegal for a landlord to discriminate against you based on how you pay your rent, be it a housing voucher, child support, Social Security, or something else.

### **2. What is an example of a housing voucher?**

Housing vouchers subsidize a household's rent. Common housing vouchers include, *but are not limited to*, Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as "Section 8" or "PHA" vouchers), Rapid Rehousing Vouchers, and Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers.

### **3. What does discrimination against voucher holders look like?**

The following examples may be evidence of discrimination against voucher holders:

- Advertising statements like "no section 8 accepted" or "we do not accept voucher holders";
- Charging a higher rent or security deposit because you pay with a voucher or subsidy;
- Providing different terms or privileges, or denying the use of facilities to residents based on source of income, such as a rooftop patio that is available to all residents except those with a voucher;
- Requiring minimum income requirements that would disqualify any voucher holder's applications. For example, requiring an applicant to make \$150,000 per year or 3x the full monthly rent amount would automatically disqualify any applications from voucher holders.

### **4. Who can I contact if I believe that I have been discriminated against because I pay my rent with a voucher?**

You can make a housing discrimination complaint with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations by visiting <https://www.phila.gov/departments/philadelphia-commission-on-human-relations/>.

The Public Interest Law Center may be able to offer you legal assistance. To talk to an attorney, e-mail [mgray@pubintl.org](mailto:mgray@pubintl.org), call (267) 546-1306, or fill out our contact form by visiting <https://forms.office.com/r/SemCAhv77q> or scanning the QR code below:

