

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: City of Winchester  
Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development

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## **City's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development to study impediments to fair housing**

The City of Winchester's Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development is currently undertaking a study concerning fair housing compliance and impediments to fair housing in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. The office is partnering with Robert Gaudin of Western Economic Services (WES) to perform the regional study which will analyze mortgage application data, fair housing complaints, the fair housing service delivery system, and media reports regarding fair housing. The study will also include telephone interviews with people who are knowledgeable about housing and fair housing compliance issues.

Known as the "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice," the study is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The goals of the research are to identify whether barriers and adverse policies exist in a variety of areas, including housing rentals and sales, banking, insurance, and real estate industries. The study also examines public and administrative policies that may advertently lead to discrimination against protected classes.

To provide the public an opportunity to participate, five fair housing forums are currently scheduled:

**Tuesday, March 13 at 8:30 a.m.**

Page County (Luray) Town Council Chambers  
43 East Main Street, Luray, VA 22835  
540-743-5511

**Tuesday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m.**

Shenandoah County Government Center, Extension Services Conference Room  
600 North Main Street, Room 100-A, Woodstock, VA 22644  
540-459-6140

**Wednesday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m.**

Warren County Government Center, Community Meeting Room  
200 North Commerce Avenue, Room 106, Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-636-4600

**Wednesday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m.**

Clarke County Circuit Courthouse, Board Meeting Room, Planning Office  
102 North Church Street, Second Floor, Berryville, VA 22611  
540-955-5100

**Thursday, March 15 at 9:00 a.m.**

Our Health, Board Room  
329 North Cameron Street, Winchester, VA 22601  
540-536-1600

The public is urged to attend a forum to:

- ✓ Provide information, opinions, and feelings about fair housing choice in the Northern Shenandoah Valley;
- ✓ Listen to preliminary findings of the study; and
- ✓ Offer suggestions on how to eliminate impediments to fair housing choice and ways communities can work together to improve the fair housing issues.

***State and Federal fair housing laws prohibit discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, and disability.***