

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: press@cchr.nyc.gov, (212) 416-0250

**NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
ANNOUNCING NEW PROTECTIONS WITHIN FAIR CHANCE HOUSING LAW**

NEW YORK, NY — The New York City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) launched an education campaign to highlight new protections for New Yorkers in the recently passed Fair Chance Housing Law. The new law, which went into effect January 1, 2025, makes it illegal for most NYC housing providers to discriminate against renters and buyers, including in co-ops and condos, because of arrest records, convictions, or other criminal history.

"Fair Chance Housing represents a significant step toward eliminating discrimination and promoting fairness in New York City's housing market," **said Annabel Palma, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights.** "By removing unjust barriers, we are fostering inclusive communities where all individuals have the opportunity to secure housing."

Under the Fair Chance Housing Law, it is illegal for most housing providers to:

- Advertise or make statements that limit or exclude applicants based on their criminal history.
- Ask about, or require disclosure of, criminal history during the application process prior to a conditional offer.
- Deny or alter housing opportunities due to arrest or conviction records without following legally mandated steps.

The law does not mandate housing providers to conduct criminal background checks; however, those who choose to do so must comply with [specific requirements](#). Housing providers that choose to conduct criminal background checks must adhere to the following procedures:

- **Conditional Offer Requirement:** Housing providers must first evaluate an applicant's general eligibility and extend a conditional offer of housing before initiating a criminal background check.
- **Restrictions on Conviction Consideration:** Only specific, limited convictions may be taken into account during the background check process.
- **Individualized Assessment:** Housing providers must perform a detailed, case-by-case assessment if they intend to rescind a conditional offer based on criminal history. The assessment must consider factors such as the nature of the offense, the time elapsed, and the applicant's rehabilitation efforts.
- **Notice and Response Period:** If a conditional offer is revoked, the applicant must receive written notice detailing the reasons for denial, along with a copy of any documents or reports relied upon. Applicants are entitled to five business days to respond with additional information, such as evidence of rehabilitation or inaccuracies in the background report.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Housing providers are required to maintain records of the individualized assessment and decision-making process to ensure compliance with the law.

Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in legal consequences under the NYC Human Rights Law. For more information on the Fair Chance Housing Law, including guidance for housing providers and applicants, please visit the CCHR [official campaign page](#).

Campaign graphics with a QR code linking to the campaign website will be displayed on LinkNYC kiosks, bus shelters, and in convenience stores throughout the five boroughs. TaxiTV will also run a public service announcement about housing protections featuring Commissioner Palma. An audio recording of Commissioner Palma's public service announcement will also run on 311 on-hold reel and the NYC radio networks. The public awareness campaign will also launch on CCHR's social media including "X," formerly known as "Twitter," Instagram, and Facebook.



The campaign will feature a range of outreach efforts, including community events throughout the month of April, traditionally recognized as Fair Housing Month. To ensure landlords and brokers are aware of their legal obligations and responsibilities, the Commission will host a course on the New York City Human Rights Law with an emphasis on housing discrimination on April 23, 2025. Those in attendance will earn 1.5 credits toward their real estate license continuing education. Additionally, the Commission will host several resource fairs focused on the Fair Chance Housing Law to empower tenants on their rights and protections under the new law.

Anyone in New York City who feels they have experienced or witnessed discrimination can reach out to the Commission by calling 212-416-0197, [filling out the online form](#), or visiting one of the Commission's offices.

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The New York City Commission on Human Rights is the agency responsible for enforcing the NYC Human Rights Law, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Commission works to promote equality and combat discrimination in New York City through law enforcement, community relations, and public education.