

April is National Fair Housing Month

This year marks the 44th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act — the landmark legislation signed into law on April 11, 1968 that prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, color, national origin, sex, (and as amended) disability or family status. State and local governments include additional "protected classes", such as marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, veterans/military status, age, or Section 8.

Every April, people across the country are encouraged to learn more about their rights and responsibilities under the Act as a part of National Fair Housing Month.

More than 10,000 people filed housing discrimination complaints last year, most from persons with disabilities, according to an annual report released this month by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD also found that race-based housing discrimination was the second most frequent reason individuals filed complaints.

It is unlawful to discriminate in the sale, rental, or financing of housing.

Excerpted from Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc.