

STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



**Request for Information  
for  
Expanding Fair Housing Testing and  
Enforcement in New York State**

<b>Request for Information Number: 22-005</b>	<b>RFI Issued: 11/4/2022</b>
<b>RFI Description:</b> Expansion of Fair Housing Investigation and Enforcement in New York State	<b>Contract Period: Not Applicable</b>
<b>Due Dates and Times (ET):</b>  Submission of Questions: 11/30/2022  OAG Issuance of Answers: 12/16/2022  RFI Response Due: 1/20/2023	<b>Location of Service:</b> New York State, at Respondent's Premises or Designated Premise
In compliance with Procurement Lobbying Law, contacting anyone other than designated herein may result in rejection of Application. <b>Primary Designated Contact:</b>  <b>James Busta</b> Contract Management Specialist Budget and Fiscal Management Bureau Office of the New York Attorney General State Capitol Albany, New York 12224-0341 <b>Telephone: (518) 776-2112</b> E-Mail: purchase@ag.ny.gov	In the event the <b>Primary</b> designated contact is not available, the alternate designated contact is:  Christopher Reks Contract Management Specialist 2 Budget and Fiscal Management Bureau Office of the New York Attorney General State Capitol Albany, New York 12224-0341 Telephone: (518) 776-2138 E-Mail: purchase@ag.ny.gov

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	
<b>I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</b>	3
<b>II. BACKGROUND</b>	3
<b>III. QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL AGENCIES OR NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS</b>	4
<b>IV. SUBMISSION OF QUESITONS AND RFI RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS</b>	4-5
A. Submission of Questions	4-5
B. RFI Response Delivery Method	5
<b>Appendix A Section 80-A</b>	6-7

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



**I. Statement of Purpose**

The Purpose of this RFI is to identify agencies and organizations interested in fair housing testing and enforcement in New York State, particularly in areas of the State that currently do not have Qualified Fair Housing Organizations (QFHOs), as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, that are operating full-service fair housing programs or Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) Agencies that receive HUD funding to enforce fair housing laws.

**II. Background**

In 2021, the New York State Legislature established the "Anti-discrimination in housing fund" (appendix A) to be made available to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). Monies from the fund can be utilized for the allocation of grants to support fair housing testing and enforcement to county, city, town or villages through local human rights commissions or other agencies, as well as not-for-profit agencies specializing in the prevention of unlawful discrimination in housing.

The OAG seeks to utilize funding from the anti-discrimination in housing fund to expand fair housing testing and services in New York State. Currently, there are six full service QFHOs in New York State as well as several Fair Housing Assistance Program Agencies that serve localities throughout the state. However, there are many areas in the state that are not covered by either the QFHOs or receive FHAP grants, and some of the regions that receive coverage from QFHOs are geographically large, so additional coverage within those regions would benefit New York's fight against housing discrimination.

The OAG is seeking information from counties, municipalities and nonprofit organizations who might be interested in receiving support including training and funding to create or improve fair housing testing, with preference to regions that do not currently have a QFHO or receive FHAP grants. Interested parties should respond to the questions below.

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



**III. Questions for County or Municipal Agencies or Non Profit Organizations**

1. Please describe your agency/organization, your mission, any areas of focus for your organization, and the geographic region you serve.
2. Briefly describe, to your knowledge, the fair housing issues residents in your region face. Are there agencies/organizations (including yours) that currently work on fair housing enforcement in the region? Are there geographic areas that are underserved or specific issues in your service area (e.g., increased testing for familial status discrimination) that would benefit from an increase in fair housing testing and enforcement?
3. Describe your experience, if any, with fair housing enforcement activities including receiving, investigating and responding to complaints, advocating on behalf of victims of discrimination as well as testing and legal enforcement of federal, state or local fair housing laws. Please include if your agency/organization receives or has received federal funding for this work.
4. Do you receive complaints from current or prospective tenants or homeowners about housing discrimination? If so, how do you currently respond to these complaints? Are you able to take complaints from non-English speakers?
5. Would your agency/organization be interested in receiving training and other support to conduct fair housing testing to identify fair housing violations?
6. If your agency/organization receives testing support, would you have interest in providing testing results to the OAG or other appropriate agencies to pursue fair housing claims utilizing testing results?
7. In addition to testing support, would your agency/organization be interested in receiving support to utilize testing results to pursue fair housing claims? Please include details about your expertise and interest in pursuing fair housing enforcement claims.
8. If you received funding to conduct fair housing testing and enforcement, what other resources (staff support etc.) would you be able to offer towards creating or expanding your agency's/organization's ability to enforce fair housing laws?

**IV. Submission of Questions and RFI Response Requirements**

**A. Submission of Questions**

All questions/inquiries and/or clarifications concerning this request for information shall be addressed to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) designated contact. All questions should be submitted by email to [purchase@ag.ny.gov](mailto:purchase@ag.ny.gov) with the subject line: "RFI #22-005 -

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



Expansion of Fair Housing Investigation and Enforcement in New York State.” – Q&A – [Insert Vendor Name]”. Cite the particular RFI section and paragraph number the question relates to.

Questions/inquiries and/or requests for clarification are only accepted via e-mail. Official answers to questions will be provided via addendum posted to the OAG website (<https://ag.ny.gov/budget-and-fiscal-management-bureauprocurement>) and the NYS Contract Reporter (<https://www.nyscr.ny.gov/agency/index.cfm>). Deadline for submission of questions will be as stated on the cover page of this document.

**B. RFI Response Delivery Method and Content**

Certified mail, first class mail, overnight delivery, hand delivered responses or walk-ins will not be accepted. Facsimile submissions will not be accepted. The Office of the Attorney General will not acknowledge receipt of applications delivered by mail, fax or in person.

Responses must be submitted via e-mail to [purchase@ag.ny.gov](mailto:purchase@ag.ny.gov) with the subject line of “Response Enclosed for RFI #22-005 - Expansion of Fair Housing Investigation and Enforcement in New York State – [Insert Vendor Name]”.

The applicant is responsible for ensuring arrival before 4:00 PM on the deadline date.

Submission Content:

1. **Cover Page:** Respondents must provide a cover letter that includes the following information:
  - Institution name
  - Contact name
  - Contact title
  - Contact phone #
  - Contact e-mail address
  - Mailing address
2. **Narrative:** A narrative of no more than five (5) pages answering questions in Section III.

STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



Appendix A

## SECTION 80-A

### Anti-discrimination in housing fund

State Finance (STF) CHAPTER 56, ARTICLE 6

§ 80-a. Anti-discrimination in housing fund. 1. There is hereby established in the custody of the state comptroller a special fund to be known as the "anti-discrimination in housing fund".

2. The anti-discrimination in housing fund shall consist of moneys appropriated thereto, moneys transferred from any other fund or sources, and fifty percent of all fines and forfeitures collected pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section four hundred forty-one-c of the real property law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. The moneys in the anti-discrimination in housing fund shall be kept separate from and shall not be commingled with any other moneys in the custody of the state comptroller. Such moneys shall be made available to the office of the attorney general, for fair housing testing through allocation of grants to duly applying county, city, town or village human rights commissions, or other duly applying county, city, town, village or not-for-profit entities specializing in the prevention of unlawful discrimination in housing, to detect unlawful discrimination in housing.

4. The attorney general shall establish the application criteria and

**STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



qualifications for the entities for the purposes of the fund as defined in subdivision three of this section that will conduct testing. The attorney general may enter into contracts with such qualified fair housing entities which may thereafter be renewed, extended or succeeded by new contracts from year to year in the discretion of the attorney general.

5. The monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the attorney general.

6. No later than the fifteenth day of January of each year the attorney general shall report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on activities undertaken by the attorney general and any grantee pursuant to this section in the preceding year. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the current amount of funds available as well as the amount of money granted to any entity that will conduct testing to detect unlawful discrimination in housing for the purposes identified in this section. Results, data, findings, and other relevant information existing, collected, detected, modified or developed by the attorney general or grantee under this section shall be provided in such annual report following the completion of the obligations in the contract.