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Hampton Roads Area, Virginia

ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS OF FAIR HOUSING CHOICE

Client

Hampton Roads Community Housing Resource Board (HRCHRB) is a regional organization supported by seven HUD entitlement communities: Norfolk, Hampton, Suffolk, Chesapeake, Newport News, Virginia Beach, and Portsmouth.

Project Description

HUD requires every entitlement community to prepare and implement a fair housing action plan. The action plan expresses the community's commitment to overcome obstacles and to expand fair housing choice for all residents, especially those of protected classes.

The action plan is based on an evaluation of the following:

- Demographics
- Lending practices
- Public policies
- Fair housing complaints
- Real estate practices
- Effectiveness of current fair housing activities
- Supply of affordable housing

Challenges

Achieve a concerted regional focus while addressing the unique needs of each participating community. Satisfy these needs within the parameters of HUD concerns and expectations.

Solution

While coordinating the overall project with HRCHRB, M&L staff will meet individually with each city and its public housing authority. M&L will prepare a freestanding action plan for each of the participating cities and one action plan to address regional issues.

In initial stages of the project (March 2003), M&L staff met with representatives of the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Division of the Richmond HUD office. As a result, the entire project will be approached with sensitivity to HUD concerns.

Benefits

- The entire region will benefit from a thorough analysis of fair housing issues in the community
- Each participating city will have its own action plan, based on its own priorities and its unique flavor
- HUD concerns and issues were identified early in the project
- HUD concerns for fair housing will be fully addressed
- All residents, including those of protected classes, will benefit from fair housing practices in the community

Planning and Development Consultants