



# Long Island Housing Services, Inc.

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*Protecting Civil Rights for Long Islanders since 1969*



February 25, 2025

New York State Legislature  
2024 Joint Budget Hearing  
Housing

[wamchair@nyassembly.gov](mailto:wamchair@nyassembly.gov)  
[financechair@nysenate.gov](mailto:financechair@nysenate.gov)

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Re: Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program  
funding at \$7 Million

Dear Hon. Committee Chairs,

My name is Ian Wilder. I am the Executive Director of Long Island Housing Services, Inc. (LIHS) and I submit this testimony in support of **\$7 Million for the Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program** administered by Homes and Community Renewal, which funds a network of six nonprofit fair housing organizations across the state, including ours, doing systemic fair housing work. *We also support legislative efforts by Senator Kavanagh to codify the program into law permanently*

The Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program (FHTENP) is currently funded at \$4 Million; this program has allowed us to hire new staff, conduct systemic fair housing tests and educate our communities. The proposed Executive Budget only has the program at \$2 Million, which it did last year before the Legislature brought the final budget amount to \$4 Million. The New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus' People's Budget has requested the funding for this program be increased to \$8 Million.

Our request for funding of the Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program at \$7 million will cover a wider range of crucial fair housing activities, including intake and direct advocacy on behalf of clients. It will also allow us to provide a deeper level of service in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Most significantly, funding the program at \$7 Million is **particularly critical in 2025** because of **proposed termination of federal funding for civil rights**. We also support our Fair Housing services through U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subgrants for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) which could also be terminated.



A 501(c)(3) nonprofit  
Fair Housing agency

*Our mission is the elimination of unlawful housing discrimination  
and promotion of decent and affordable housing through advocacy and education.*

Re: Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program funding to \$7 Million  
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Established in 1969, Long Island Housing Services is a civil rights 501c3 nonprofit focused on serving the fair housing needs of Nassau and Suffolk. LIHS is a HUD Qualified Fair Housing Enforcement Organization.

Our financials can be found at <https://www.lifairhousing.org/about/financials/> Our governing documents can be found at <https://www.lifairhousing.org/about/governing-documents/> LIHS has a Platinum rating from Guidestar.

We URGE the New York State Legislature to include \$7 Million in funding for **Fair Housing Testing, Education and Networking program** in this year's budget so that the six Fair Housing organizations can continue their great work combating urgent housing discrimination and continuing to help New York homeowners and tenants to enjoy the American Dream of living where they choose, free of discrimination.

For more information, please contact Ian Wilder at 631-567-5111 extension 314 or [Ian@LIFairHousing.org](mailto:Ian@LIFairHousing.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Wilder".

Ian Wilder, Esq.  
Executive Director