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FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF CENTRAL INDIANA RELEASES REPORT SHOWING SIGNIFICANT SECTION 8 REFUSAL RATES

INDIANAPOLIS – A report released today by the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) reveals high refusal rates for Hoosiers seeking housing with housing choice vouchers.

The FHCCI conducted a “Fair Housing Rental Testing Audit” to measure any refusal rates for home seekers using a housing choice voucher (formerly called Section 8) in Marion County, Indiana. This was the first such audit in Indiana. The audit evaluated the scope of this currently *lawful* form of housing discrimination and its impact on housing choice.

“Those using housing choice vouchers are persons who are low-income and often at significant risk of homelessness,” stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. “The fact that they are shut out of so many neighborhoods, due to the very voucher which is in place to give them more housing options, is disheartening.”

The FHCCI conducted a total of 51 tests for the audit focusing on housing providers in Marion County, Indiana. The tests showed that those using vouchers faced denial rates of 82%. In areas that are predominantly Caucasian, home seekers with vouchers faced refusal rates of 90%. These are alarming rates of refusal and significantly impact the ability of those who are low-income to find affordable, safe, high-quality housing in the neighborhoods of their choice.

“At a 90% refusal rate, a Section 8 voucher holder would need to *make 10 calls* before finding a housing provider willing to accept their use of his or her voucher in the majority white areas. This is a daunting task for a housing search and an extremely time consuming and frustrating one,” continued Nelson.

A copy of the full audit report may be viewed or downloaded on the “News” page of the FHCCI’s website: <http://www.fhcci.org/news/>

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. For more information on fair housing or enforcing fair housing rights as a veteran or servicemember, contact the FHCCI or visit www.fhcci.org.