



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MARCH 1, 2017

**Contact:** Amy Nelson, Executive Director  
317-644-0673 x1001  
[anelson@fhcci.org](mailto:anelson@fhcci.org)

### **FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF CENTRAL INDIANA RECEIVES COMMUNITIES AGAINST HATE GRANT**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$125,000 “Communities Against Hate” rapid-response grant by the Open Society Foundations. This funding initiative was a national competition awarding a total of \$3 million in funds nationwide.

The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. In the United States, the foundations’ work seeks to promote full participation in the nation’s civic, political, and economic life—particularly for communities that are historically marginalized and vulnerable—and to ensure that the core institutions of civil society are effective and accountable to the public.

**More than one time per week, on average, Hoosiers are targeted for violence or vandalism because of who they are, where they come from, and/or what they believe in, according to FBI data.**

Source: Fox 59, *In Focus: Should Indiana pass a hate crime law?*, December 4, 2016



“Although we are disheartened at the escalation of hate directed at Hoosiers in recent months, we are incredibly appreciative that the Open Society Foundations offered this opportunity and chose the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana for receipt of funds to attempt to confront this hate,” stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. “We look forward to using these needed funds to help those in our community take a stand against hate and provide needed resources and training.”

**THE LGBT POPULATION AND RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, PRIMARILY JEWISH AND MUSLIM, HAVE A COMBINED AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 2,200 REPORTED HATE CRIME ATTACKS EVERY YEAR IN AMERICA.**

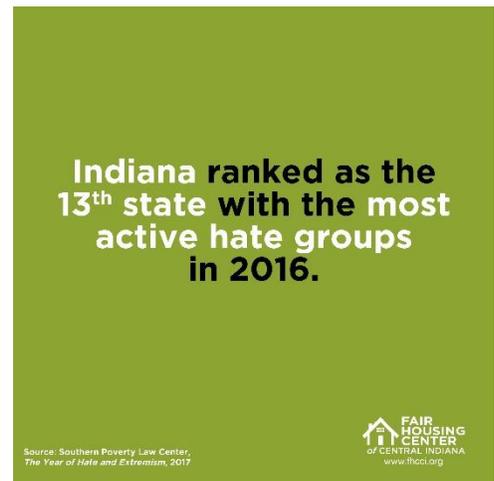
SOURCE: NUVO, HATE CRIMES IN INDIANA, 2007



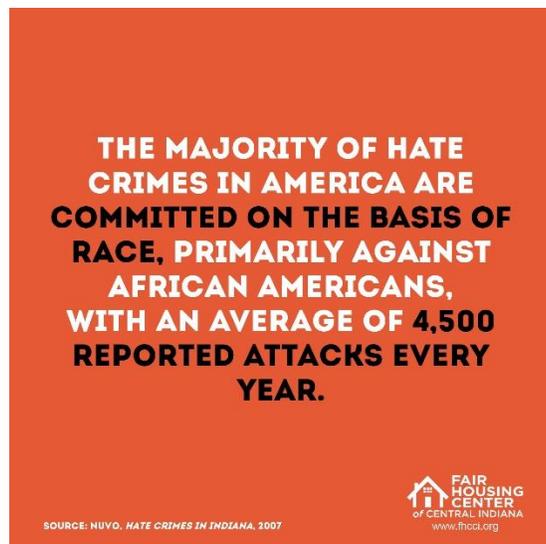
With its mission and values, the Open Society Foundations identified an alarming surge in incidents of hate in the weeks since the presidential election. In solidarity with and support of communities and vulnerable populations across the country that are dealing with the fallout from hate incidents, Open Society made an initial allocation of \$3 million available through an open call for applications. Open Society Foundations’ aim was to

provide communities on the frontlines of dealing with hate with a quick infusion of resources that can aid in resisting the spread of hate and strengthening protections and assistance for those who are targets of harassment, intimidation, vandalism and violence. The Communities Against Hate rapid-response initiative aims to respond to what communities believe is of greatest value to support, protect, and empower those who are targets of hateful acts and rhetoric. The grants are awarded to organizations that are well positioned to provide an array of responses to acts of hate.

The six-month grant awarded to the FHCCI will begin on March 1, 2017. It will have three main focus areas: (1) Draft, modify, or create resources for responding to hate including training opportunities for advocates and community members; (2) Begin building an infrastructure for a Network/Coalition for responding to hate in Central Indiana; and (3) A training conference for combatting hate at the end of the six-month period. For more information on this grant and activities, watch for announcements on the [FHCCI Facebook page](#). To be added to a distribution list about grant activities, contact [info@fhcci.org](mailto:info@fhcci.org)



The Open Society Foundations stated that these awards are a rapid response fund that will support local communities and organizations in the U.S. in their efforts to de-escalate and head off future incidents of hate based on race, religion, national origin, gender and sexual orientation. For the purposes of this funding, incidents of hate include bullying, intimidation, bigoted slurs, assaults, desecration of houses of worship, and other acts. Open Society hopes these rapid response grants will promote the values of inclusion, diversity, fairness, and equal protection, and empower and equip individuals, institutions, organizations, and local communities across the social, racial, ethnic, and faith spectrum to stand together against hate. They also want to ensure that incidents are included, tracked and aggregated in local and national databases and increase public awareness and solidarity.



-----  
*The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. More information on the FHCCI is at: [www.fhcci.org](http://www.fhcci.org)*

*The Open Society Foundations work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. More information at: [www.opensocietyfoundations.org](http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org)*