In Cambridge it is against the law to deny anyone housing because of their:

✓ Disability
✓ Source of Income
  (for example: refusing to accept Section 8)
✓ Family Status/Marital Status
✓ Race/Color/National Origin
✓ Sex/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity
✓ Religion
✓ Age (18 years or older)
✓ Military Status

Persons treated unfairly because of their membership in one or more of these groups may be protected under Fair Housing Laws.
IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO:

» Discourage or refuse to allow a person to apply for an available housing unit
» Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
» Charge or quote a higher rental or sale price for a dwelling
» Refuse a unit to an applicant receiving public assistance (Including Section 8)
» Deny housing to a family with children due to the presence of lead paint
» Discriminate in advertising, written or oral statements
» Harass, coerce, or intimidate an individual because of their membership in a protected group
» Retaliate against someone for asserting their fair housing rights
» Deny a reasonable accommodation or treat someone unfavorably because of a disability
» Spread rumors of racial change to stimulate property sales
» Deny mortgage loans or insurance to specific neighborhoods

Landlords, sellers and real estate agents must consider applicants on neutral criteria, such as the ability to pay. These criteria must be applied uniformly to all. Discrimination takes many forms.

WE WILL:

✓ Investigate the complaint
✓ If we find discrimination, work for a voluntary settlement through mediation
✓ If necessary, hold a legal hearing after which we can award money damages, impose fines, or require other actions

And the Cambridge Human Rights Commission will try to make sure that what happened to you will not happen to anyone else!

If you or someone you know has experienced housing discrimination, call the Cambridge Human Rights Commission now at (617) 349-4396.