



Fair Housing Tester FAQ's



What is a Tester? A Tester is someone who poses as a renter or home buyer in order to help collect evidence for Interfaith Fair Housing investigations. The Tester meets with a real estate agent, landlord, or building manager to inquire into the availability of housing and records the factual events of their visit.

What is the Purpose of Testing? Testers provide objective factual data about their experience with a housing provider. A Tester's home seeking experiences are then compared to a "matched" Tester who is alike in every respect except that s/he differs by race, familial status, ethnicity, etc. The data collected is compared to a Tester who sought housing from the same agent, landlord, or building manager. Any difference in treatment between the matched Testers can support or dispel a claim of discrimination.

Why is Testing Important? Without the data Testers provide, very few Fair Housing complaints have enough evidence to warrant legal action. For someone brave enough to register a complaint of discrimination, Testers make a big difference in moving a case forward to achieve a just outcome.

What is Required of Testers? Testers attend a 3 hour training and are given a practice test. Once those have been completed and assessed by the Test Coordinator, real assignments are given on an as-needed basis. After the visit with the Housing Provider, Testers fill out a report questionnaire, write a factual narrative, and submit these documents to Interfaith's Test Coordinator within a given time frame.

What is the Time Commitment? While Test assignments are time sensitive, this work can be arranged to fit into your schedule. Some Testers might be employed and test on off hours; some Testers are retirees; some are students; some are between jobs. Some test once a year, some regularly.

What is the Stipend? In addition to the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to prevent and uncover housing discrimination, you will receive a modest stipend and travel reimbursement. Testers receive \$25.00 for the initial training and practice test. Following training, Testers are reimbursed \$35.00 for each rental test and \$65.00 for each sales test. In all cases, they receive reimbursement of for travel and of all other incurred fees.

If this valuable work fits into your life, contact:
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