



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

## **FAIR HOUSING**

We take this month to acknowledge the key to the American Dream and the right to own property, but we also commit ourselves to continually look for new ideas to expand home ownership opportunities. Homeownership is a win-win for us all.

### **Not Just in April, but Everyday REALTORS® agree to:**

- Provide equal professional service without regard to the race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin or sexual orientation of any prospective client, customer or of the residents of any community.
- Keep informed about fair housing law and practices, improving my clients' and customers' opportunities and my business.
- Develop advertising that indicates that everyone is welcome and no one is excluded; expanding my client's and customer's opportunities to see, buy, or lease property.
- Inform my clients and customers about their rights and responsibilities under the fair housing laws by providing brochures and other information.
- Document my efforts to provide professional service, which will assist me in becoming a more responsive and successful REALTOR®.
- Refuse to tolerate non-compliance.
- Learn about those who are different from me, and celebrate those differences.
- Take a positive approach to fair housing practices and aspire to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the law.
- Develop and implement fair housing practices for my firm to carry out the spirit of this declaration.

BNAR is part of the twenty eight-member, Erie County Fair Housing Partnership. The ECFHP is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting equal opportunity in house for all residents of Western New York. The Partnership has a diverse representation from various segments of the community. Through the commitment and collaborative efforts of its members, the Partnership has been successful in increasing public awareness regarding the importance of equal opportunity in housing. Western New Yorkers are encouraged to participate in the many local events brought together by members of the Erie County Fair Housing Partnership. For more information visit their website at [www.ecfhp.org](http://www.ecfhp.org)

**Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)** is a membership-based, nationally recognized civil rights organization that provides comprehensive services for victims of housing discrimination and paralegal information to real estate professionals, tenants and housing providers in Western New York. For more information- click this URL link [www.homeny.org](http://www.homeny.org).

**Reasonable Modifications** - New guidance released this week by the Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Justice (DOJ) reinforced the right of persons with disabilities to make "reasonable modifications" to their dwellings if a structural change to their dwelling or to a common area of the building or complex in which they live is needed so that they can fully enjoy the premises.

**Putting People First** - [A financial education guide for existing and potential Homeowners and Renters with Developmental Disabilities](#). To strengthen existing partnerships and develop new collaborative relationships with various organizations and groups, including the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), the Empire State Development Corporation, and local banks a grant was given to enable the New York State Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to produce "A Financial Education Guide for Existing and Potential Homeowners and Renters with Developmental Disabilities" for people with developmental disabilities, parents or legal guardians, not-for-profit agencies, housing developers, government agencies and others to learn about the needs and options available in accessible and affordable housing.