



September 2025

2025 City of Altoona Fair Housing Report

Summit Legal Aid
Fair Housing Law Center

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INTRODUCTION

Summit Legal Aid (SLA) contracted with the City of Altoona to provide fair housing services from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. SLA agreed to provide education and outreach within the City, to distribute fair housing information, to host a fair housing month event, and to provide technical assistance on fair housing matters. SLA maintained a social media presence in the City as an additional way to reach residents and educate on fair housing rights and remedies.

SLA's intake coordinator maintained the City of Altoona Fair Housing Hotline and assisted callers who had fair housing issues get connected with a SLA attorney. For those calling about issues unrelated to fair housing, SLA gave appropriate referrals to other community agencies.





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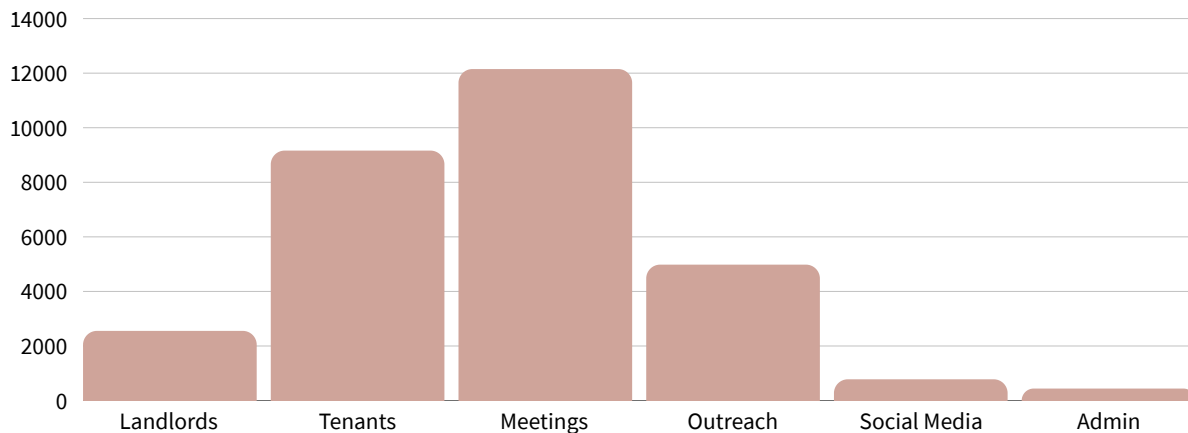
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AT A GLANCE

Fair Housing Services

\$30,000 expended

FY 2023 Budget: SLA focused project spending on the bulk of this budget on educating tenants and service providers. The number of referrals from Altoona increased slightly; however, SLA received a 50% reduction in Altoona hotline calls over last year. Many more referrals are coming directly to SLA because of its presence in the community.



Our Key Successes



Responded to 52 Blair County referrals



Collaborated with the PHRC to hold a focus for Fair Housing Month



Completed twice monthly summer sessions at the family shelter



Developed five social media posts on fair housing which were viewed 165,445 times

LANDLORDS

Outreach + Training

November 8, 2024: SLA presented on fair housing at the annual Landlord Workshop hosted by Operation our Town and the Altoona Housing Authority.

The presentation focused on common fair housing violations, including:

- Discriminatory Advertising & Statements
- Making Housing Unavailable
- Terms & Conditions
- False Denial of Availability
- Steering
- Coercion, Intimidation, Threats, and Interference
- Harassment- general
- Harassment- sexual harassment
- Denial of Reasonable Modifications
- Denial of Reasonable Accommodations

June 27, 2025: SLA presented on fair housing for the Center for Community Action. The training covered who is protected under the Fair Housing Act, what is prohibited under the Act, what remedies exist, and disability-specific topics, including reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications.



TENANTS

Community Engagement

SLA participated in several community events benefitting clients. Additionally, SLA collaborated with Family Services to start twice monthly sessions for shelter guests to learn about their housing rights and speak with fair housing attorneys. These lasted throughout the summer.

- 07-19-2024: Family Services Shelter
- 07-26-2024: Family Services Shelter
- 08-26-2024: Family Services Shelter
- 08-30-2024: Family Services Shelter
- 10-22-2024: Community Resource Fair
- 04-23-2025: Food Sustainability Workshop
- 06-03-2025: Altoona School District Resource Fair
- 06-24-2025: Training for Veterans Leadership Program
- 06-30-2025: Health Blair Coalition Annual Meeting



MEETINGS

SLA staff attended Local Housing Options Team, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and Operation our Town, Blair County Health and Wellness, Hope for the Homeless, and Blair County LINK meetings throughout the year and offered important fair housing updates and technical assistance to those in attendance.

CJAB (bi-monthly)

- July 18, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- May 15, 2024

LHOT (bi-monthly)

- July 17, 2024
- September 18, 2024
- November 20, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- May 21, 2025

Operation our Town (monthly)

- August 22, 2024
- September 26, 2024
- January 23, 2025
- April 24, 2025
- May 22, 2025
- June 26, 2025

Blair Co. Health & Wellness

- November 22, 2024
- January 24, 2025
- May 23, 2025

Hope for the Homeless

- May 9, 2025
- June 13, 2025

Blair Co. LINK

- May 12, 2025



SOCIAL MEDIA

JUNE 2025	VIEWS	POST ENGAGEMENT & REACTIONS	LINK CLICKS & SHARES
	35,472	28 engaged 0 reactions	28 clicks 0 shares
	42,251	50 engaged 6 reactions	43 clicks 0 shares
	36,909	22 engaged 1 reaction	21 clicks 0 shares

SOCIAL MEDIA, cont.

JUNE 2025	VIEWS	POST ENGAGEMENT & REACTIONS	LINK CLICKS & SHARES
	25,697	35 engaged 2 reactions	33 clicks 0 shares
	25,116	25 engaged 3 reactions	22 clicks 0 shares



FAIR HOUSING MONTH

This year, SLA held a joint event with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Altoona stakeholders were invited to a focus group which allowed SLA to learn, and the participants to share, what fair housing issues and needs exist in the city.

REFERRALS



Four callers left a message on the fair housing line but could not be reached for follow-up. This was the same as 2022-23.

These numbers include both Altoona hotline call and calls received directly by SLA.

THANK YOU

Our goal is to increase awareness of housing discrimination within the City of Altoona so that residents (1) know their rights and (2) know that there are free legal services to help enforce their rights. We believe that by participating in community events, providing direct training, collaborating with community leaders, distributing materials, and sharing information on social media we have reached a large portion of the residents of Altoona.

Thank you for this opportunity to further promote fair housing awareness.

Questions? Contact us.



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