

– NEWS RELEASE –

Craven County has received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the North Carolina Division of Community Assistance for the rehabilitation or replacement of six substandard housing units.

One of the conditions of the county's grant agreement with the state is that the county take steps to affirmatively further fair housing. The county has adopted a Fair Housing Policy and will distribute information about fair housing to banks and realtors in the area.

Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 prohibits discriminatory housing practices on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin. The law governs rental property and sales transactions, and applies to individuals as well as lending institutions.

In 1988, Congress passed the Fair Housing Amendments Act. This law expanded "discriminatory housing practice" to include discrimination against families with young children and the handicapped. Additionally, the new law makes it easier for complaints to be reviewed at the local and state level and strengthens the enforcement process.

North Carolina has adopted a state Fair Housing Act which reflects the federal laws described above, and which also makes it easier for individuals in municipalities like Craven County to file complaints concerning discriminatory housing practices.

Craven County's Fair Housing Policy establishes a procedure for handling complaints concerning housing discrimination at the local level. If any citizen of the county experiences discrimination in housing because of race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin, they may contact Mr. Donald R. Baumgardner, Planning Director at (252) 636-6618. The county does not have a TDD number; however, if any individual wishing such assistance will call 911 and indicate the need for TDD assistance, the county will then arrange such assistance. Complaints will be reviewed and forwarded to the North Carolina Human Relations Commission in Raleigh (TDD#919/733-7996) for further review and conciliation.

Complaints concerning discriminatory housing practices can also be forwarded directly to the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, 116 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27611 (by telephone: 919/733-7996).