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Jim McCarthy, President/CEO

NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL FAIR HOUSING CENTER AWARDED GRANTS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) are pleased to announce that HUD has awarded the Fair Housing Center two grants under the department's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which is the only federal funding source specifically for education, outreach, and enforcement activities by private, non-profit fair housing organizations.

The grants awarded to the MVFHC include:

FHIP – Education & Outreach Initiative (EOI): \$125,000.00 for a twelve (12) month project wherein MVFHC will conduct Fair housing education workshops, continuing education workshops, special events and symposia to inform the public and housing professionals about their rights and obligations under the Fair Housing Act and substantially-equivalent state and local fair housing laws. The Fair Housing Center's expected outcomes from the grant include reaching 32,000 persons face to face, 180,000 persons digitally, and distribute 70,000 pieces of printed material.

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The targeted audiences for the education and outreach activities are underserved individuals and communities, women at risk for domestic violence, people with disabilities and minorities, immigrants, refugees, and non-English speaking people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Additionally, MVFHC will conduct education and outreach for housing professionals in person and digitally including financial services staff, property management, real estate and insurance agents, contractors, developers, architects, social workers, and municipal staff.

FHIP – Private Enforcement Initiative — Multi-Year (PEI-MYI) Component: \$1,275,000.00 for a thirty-six (36) month project under which MVFHC will continue its Core Fair Housing Program to assist people who seek MVFHC's help because they believe they have been the victim of housing discrimination. MVFHC will also begin a new project, the Housing Choice Systemic Testing Program, to assist people with housing choice vouchers get access to the housing of their choice in neighborhoods with high performing schools, access to jobs and transportation as well as quality affordable housing. MVFHC will also begin examining whether housing providers illegally discriminate against people with criminal records. The Criminal Records Systemic Testing Program will assist people who are re-entering society after incarceration get access to housing free from discrimination. The Fair Housing Center will address the significant gap in homeownership between people who are white and people who are Black by beginning the Systemic Lending Testing Program. Finally, MVFHC's Environmental Justice Program will examine the effects of environmental hazards on people and neighborhoods of color while working with state and local officials as well as area advocates to address the issues uncovered.

“These grants are foundational to the Fair Housing Center’s core programming throughout the Miami Valley,” said Jim McCarthy, President/CEO of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center. “Each of the funded programs were developed by the MVFHC staff in response to persistent market conditions that rank the Miami Valley among the most segregated communities in the country,” McCarthy continued.

The grants to the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center are part of \$54 million awarded to 182 grantees in 42 states to fight housing discrimination.