Fair Housing Complaints and Enforcement

In 2016, HOPE Fair Housing Center received a total of 485 intakes from 21 counties in the State of Illinois. Approximately 10% or 47 of those calls were received from people with disabilities. HOPE was able to provide Reasonable Accommodation/Reasonable Modification assistance to 9 clients with disabilities. One client had requested a ramp to her unit and that request had been ignored for over one year. With HOPE’s intervention, the property owner agreed to fulfill its obligations under Section 504 and provide the long awaited ramp.

Settlement with Eden Supportive Living Facilities

One of the disability cases settled this year was with Eden Supportive Living Facilities. HOPE’s attention was brought to the supportive living facilities through two individuals who both claimed that Eden discriminated against them and denied them housing based on actual or perceived mental disabilities. HOPE investigated these claims through testing, and after determining that they did in fact have a “no mental illness” policy, HOPE sued Eden for housing discrimination. The settlement reached between HOPE and Eden included comprehensive policy changes for Eden as well as over $150,000 in relief for bona fide complainants and $60,000 in relief for HOPE Fair Housing Center.

Systemic Testing and Investigations

HOPE conducted systemic investigations and testing in 6 counties in our service area, including rental and sales tests of major property owners, design and construction tests for accessibility, and lending investigations of banks.
Education and Outreach

In 2016, HOPE engaged in 67 outreach activities, reaching over 3000 people in our service area. HOPE’s outreach included 25 fair housing trainings and presentations, 30 community meetings and events, and 4 college and high school presentations.

HOPE Moves back to Wheaton

In October, 2016 HOPE moved its offices to Wheaton. With the help of a $200,000 CDBG grant from DuPage County, HOPE purchased a building at 202 W. Willow, which includes one office space for HOPE and three other offices, which are being leased out to local businesses.