



ACT provides input to 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan at Fair Housing Program Advisory Committee meeting

On 9/29/2015, **The Ability Center** provided input at the *Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan, Fair Housing Program Advisory Committee meeting*.

At last years **Fair Housing Committee** meeting, **Ash Lemons** shared **ACT's Zoning brochure** and brought forth concerns over funds being passed to jurisdictions that had no proof of an established policy or procedure for making **Reasonable Accommodations**, specifically with respect to **Zoning**. The center asked for **ODSA's** assistance in increasing education on this matter and suggested that the brochure be made available in all building/zoning offices that were tied to a jurisdiction that received **ODSA** funding.

At this year's meeting, held September 29th, 2015, **Shelley Papenfuse** made a recommendation that jurisdictions in receipt of **ODSA** funding be required to adopt a reasonable accommodation ordinance as part of showing compliance with their **ODSA** review/Housing Element. We asked **ODSA** to consider adopting a procedure similar to that of **California's Department of Housing and Community Development**, who has made adoption of land-use reasonable accommodation ordinances part of its regular review. We then provided the group with a recently published story written by **Disability Rights California** titled, "**Creating a Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance for People with Disabilities**". Click below to read article:

Creating a Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance for People with Disabilities

According to the **2015 State of Ohio Analysis of Impediments** report, page 41: from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, Disability represented **56.25%** of all Civil Rights Cases from Entitlement communities and **68.70%** of all Civil Rights Cases from Non-entitlement communities. Furthermore, page 48 of the report states, "**The three most commonly identified impediments in non-entitlement grantee analyses - lack of available affordable rental housing, lack of accessible housing, and lack of education or understanding of Fair Housing laws**"

Click below to see the most recent **State of Ohio Analysis of Impediments** report:

State of Ohio Analysis of Impediments 2015-2019.pdf

The Ability Center believes increased education regarding reasonable accommodations in **Land Use** and **Zoning**, coupled with an **ODSA** review process, to ensure funded jurisdictions are taking affirmative steps towards adopting a reasonable accommodation ordinances, will greatly reduce Disability related discrimination. If **ACT's** suggestions are adopted, it is believed that Ohio will also be better positioned to affirmatively further the goals of **Olmstead**. Click below for the "**Statement of the Department of Housing and Urban Development on the Role of Housing in Accomplishing the Goals of Olmstead**."

<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=OlmsteadGuidnc060413.pdf>

Anecdotal information:

ACT's Zoning Brochure History: As part of a 2013 grant from the **Ohio Department of Medicaid**, **ACT** effectively created and distributed over **18,000 Zoning brochures** across the state of Ohio. The brochure was also distributed electronically through a **National Fair Housing Network** and received positive feedback from as far away as **Orange County, California**. Click below to see **ACT's Zoning Brochure:**

<http://www.abilitycenter.org/we-can-help/living-with-a-disability/advocacy/systems-advocacy/resources-and-self-advocacy-library/zoning-laws-accommodation/>