



PRESS RELEASE
October 16, 2023

Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes
afortes@usccr.gov

**Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
Announces Public Web Briefings on Equal Access to Housing Opportunities**

The Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is hosting a series of online public panel briefings to hear testimony regarding the potential civil rights concerns related to housing affordability. The purpose of these briefings is to examine the efficacy of the 2020-2023 [Strategic Plan](#) created by Minnesota Housing, the state's housing finance agency. In particular, the Committee hopes to understand whether this plan addressed civil rights concerns related to housing affordability on the basis of race, color, disability status, national origin, age, religion, and/or sex. The Committee intends to provide the Commission with their findings and recommendations on these topics. The first panel in this series will take place:

Panel I: Thursday, November 9, 2023, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm CT
Registration: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603587740>
Access Code: 160 358 7740 | Audio Only: (833) 435-1820

Panel II: Friday, December 8, 2023, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CT
Registration: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1606567675>
Access Code: 160 656 7675 | Audio Only: (833) 435-1820

Visit the Committee's webpage for updates on confirmed speakers:
<https://bit.ly/MinnesotaAdvisoryCommitteeProject>.

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period towards the end of the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives regarding this topic.

Closed captions will be provided. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact lschiller@usccr.gov at least 7 business days prior to the meeting to make the request. The Committee will also accept written comments related to this study. Please send written statements on this topic to Liliana Schiller, at lschiller@usccr.gov by January 10, 2024.

Committee Chair Beth Commers said, "Affordability and equitable access to housing remain critical issues for many Minnesotans. Because we depend on Minnesota Housing to help strengthen the safety net for many across the state who have seen their housing challenges grow, our Committee is eager to examine if and how state and local policies and practices are contributing to disparities and inequities."

#####

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).