



## **Fair Housing Center of Washington & Housing Connector Partnership**

### ***What is Housing Connector?***

Housing Connector is a business to business organization with the mission of partnering with property owners and managers to lower barriers and increase the Puget Sound region's affordable housing capacity. We do this by providing property partners with free referrals to ready-to-rent residents as well as financial risk mitigation and customer support. In return property partners agree to apply alternative screening criteria to applicants referred through Housing Connector. What results are win-win outcomes that see businesses meeting their bottom lines and households having a place to call home.

### ***Do fair housing laws allow housing providers to partner with Housing Connector?***

Yes. In fact, property owners and managers partnering with Housing Connector are affirmatively furthering fair housing by:

- Removing housing barriers for individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Expanding housing opportunities for members of protected classes, including families with children, veterans, and domestic violence survivors.

### ***Do fair housing laws allow housing providers to use alternative screening criteria for Housing Connector residents?***

Yes. Fair housing requires consistency. The key to consistency is to require all prospective residents to establish eligibility for housing by verifying that they can and will:

- Pay rent on time
- Care for the property
- Be good neighbors

Often housing providers use strict screening criteria to establish an applicant's eligibility. Fair housing laws allow the use of alternative criteria to enable applicants to establish eligibility. For example, a landlord may agree to use alternative screening criteria for applicants who will be supported by a service provider during their tenancy. Such support can reassure the housing provider that the rent will be paid, and the lease will be followed. So, when partnering with Housing Connector, the housing provider may use alternative screening criteria instead of strict, standardized criteria.

### ***How can I get more fair housing information and support?***

The Fair Housing Center of Washington provides training and consultation services regarding Fair Housing laws. To schedule a training or request consultation services, call (253) 274-9523, visit [www.fhcwashington.org](http://www.fhcwashington.org) or email [info@fhcWASHINGTON.org](mailto:info@fhcWASHINGTON.org).

For information on partnering with Housing Connector please contact us at:  
[www.housingconnector.com](http://www.housingconnector.com) | 206.800.4040 | [info@housingconnector.com](mailto:info@housingconnector.com)