

Source of Income Discrimination Bans – Franklin County, Ohio

What is a source of income (SOI) discrimination ban?

Broadly speaking, SOI discrimination means that landlords and other real estate owners refuse to rent to prospective tenants who intend to pay for their housing with housing assistance vouchers, subsidies, veterans' benefits, or other forms of public assistance. Municipal "SOI discrimination bans" outlaw this practice, meaning landlords cannot refuse to rent to tenants who seek to use housing vouchers or other subsidies as for their rent payment.

Does this mean a resident who qualifies for housing vouchers/subsidies can apply to rent any rental property in a municipality with a source of income discrimination ban?

Not necessarily – source of income discrimination bans mandate that renters with non-wage income have an equal opportunity to rent a property, but does not mandate their ability to do so. Reasons a non-wage income prospective renter may be unable to rent a rental property include, but are not limited to:

- *The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and its subsidiaries who facilitate housing voucher/subsidy programs maintain a list of qualifications a property must meet to be paid for with housing vouchers. If the prospective rental property does not meet these requirements, the housing vouchers cannot be used there. More information about these requirements can be found through the [Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority](#).*
- *If a rental property's monthly rent cost exceeds the value of the resident's housing voucher/subsidy and the renter is unable to pay the difference out of pocket.*
- *Prospective renters fail to meet other requirements to rent the property.*

Which Franklin County municipalities have source of income discrimination bans?

Columbus

Effective: July 1, 2021; Enforced beginning September 1, 2021

Contacts:

For complaints/to report a non-compliant landlord – Columbus Urban League (614-257-6300)
Additional information about the legislation – Columbus City Council (614-645-7380)

Bexley

Contact – David Hrdlicka, Code Enforcement Officer (614-559-4247)

Reynoldsburg

Contact – Reynoldsburg City Attorney's Office (614-322-6803)

Worthington

Contact – Tom Lindsay, Law Director – 614-436-7429

If you have experienced housing-related discrimination for a reason other than source of income, please contact the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 614-466-5928.

Sources:

[City of Worthington Source of Income Discrimination FAQ](#)
Columbus Dispatch – [Columbus City Council bans "income discrimination" in housing](#)
Ohio Housing Finance Agency – [Source of Income Discrimination](#)