Can I be charged extra in rent or fees because I have an assistance animal?  
No, your landlord may not charge you extra in rent, fees, or deposits due to needing and having an assistance animal.

Can I be denied shelter in a certain area because I don’t fit the racial demographics of that area?  
No, a housing provider cannot refuse housing due to a person’s race.

Can I request disaster assistance or resources in a language other than English?  
Yes, any entity that receives federal funding must provide meaningful language access.

Can I be placed in a complex restricted to persons who are 55 years or age or older if I am under age 55?  
Yes, an exemption allows persons under 55 years of age to live in certain age-restricted housing for up to 1 year after a presidential disaster declaration.

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A FAIR HOUSING GUIDE FOR PERSONS IMPACTED BY A DISASTER

CALL THE LEGAL AID FAIR HOUSING HELPLINE
1-870-338-9834
THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) prohibits discrimination in housing against individuals based on their:

- **Race**: a person’s race or the race of persons with whom one associates
- **Color**: a person’s skin color
- **National Origin**: the country of one’s birth or the nationality of one’s ancestors
- **Religion**: a person’s religious beliefs or denomination
- **Sex**: a person’s biological characteristics including sexual orientation, gender identity, and instances of sexual harassment
- **Familial Status**: refers to families in which one or more children under 18 years of age live with a parent, a person with legal custody, or a designee from the parent or legal custodian. Also applies to pregnant persons and those in the process of securing legal custody of a child or children under 18 years of age.
- **Disability**: a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of having such a disability, or being regarded as having such impairment. This includes people with HIV or AIDS, and people who are erroneously thought to have HIV or AIDS.

WHY DOES FAIR HOUSING MATTER IN A DISASTER?

1. Incidents of housing discrimination can increase during disasters, particularly during conditions that result in the loss of homes. Housing discrimination can also heighten the impact of a disaster on protected classes, which can lead to increased financial difficulties, housing instability, and emotional and mental health distress. These impacts can result in long lasting difficulties in recovering from a disaster.

2. The Fair Housing Act’s protections against discrimination includes persons who need housing or shelter during and after a disaster. Fair Housing rights are not waived or put on hold, regardless of the severity of a disaster or resulting difficult conditions.

SIGNS OF POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION

- A disaster recovery housing counselor refuses to discuss housing in certain neighborhoods or says that you would feel “more comfortable” in certain neighborhoods.
- You are denied housing in certain places (including shelters) because you have an assistance animal.
- A housing counselor, landlord, or housing employee promises housing in exchange for sexual favors.
- Disaster recovery efforts are disproportionately benefitting members of one race over another.
- A housing provider states that they would prefer to rent to a single, Christian, woman.