



westchester residential opportunities

Since 1968

Saving homes, saving families™

Disability Testing Recap

The disability community remains at high risk for housing discrimination and insecurity. Compared to housing secure populations, sheltered populations are twice as likely to have a disability. Moreover, across the adult homeless population, 22% experience a mental disability. Through a combination of rental, sales and accessible design and construction (ADC) investigations, WRO completed 140 disability-related tests in 2019.

Rental: 84 tests examined disability in the rental market, with investigations commonly focusing on housing providers' willingness to make reasonable accommodations. With 62 rental tests producing reportable results, 52% and 48% came back as violative and non-violative, respectively.

ADC: Four tests examined housing developments in the county for physical barriers which could impede the residence of persons with disabilities. Two tests were found to be non-violative, one unclear and one violative.

Sales: In the sales market, 52 tests were conducted: 6 (12%) tests were violative, 21 (40%) were non-violative and 25 (48%) were unclear. Tests on behalf of people with mental illness and deafness were conducted most frequently at 27 and 25 times, respectively. Mental illness tests were most likely to find violative results, while deaf tests tended towards non-violative and unclear outcomes.



Examples of disability discrimination:

"No pets or anything in this building...including emotional support animals."

"That unit isn't accessible, sorry."

"I'm having trouble with this interpretive service. Can you just text me?"

"Sorry we can't accept your service animal, it's a pit bull."



If you see something (discriminatory), say something!

Call us at (914) 428-4507 (ext. 341), visit wroinc.org or shoot us an email at dsullivan@wroinc.org.