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LGBT+ Testing Recap

LGBT+ individuals in America are facing dramatic gaps in housing resources. During adolescence, LGBT+ individuals are 120% more likely to face homelessness than their heterosexual or cisgender peers. And across the country, 50% of LGBT individuals reside in states where it is legal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. So, taking advantage of state and local protections we have here in Westchester County, WRO conducted dozens of investigations on behalf of the LGBT+ community in 2019.



Who: We investigated shelters, dormitories and senior living facilities.

What: We conducted fifty-two tests examining LGBT+ rental discrimination in 2019. Twenty-eight tests produced clear results, of those 7% were violative and 93% were non-violative.

Where: All over! Our LGBT+ testing took place across Westchester, Bronx, Orange, Rockland, Queens, New York, Bronx, Putnam and Dutchess counties.

Why: LGBT+ individuals continue to face obstacles to housing throughout their lives (from dormitory to senior living). Through continuing testing, we hoped to gain a better understanding of discrimination among our region's housing providers —and how we can help them improve their practices.

How: Local dorms and shelters were tested over the phone for their ability to accommodate transgender individuals, while senior living facilities were examined for their acceptance of both transgender individuals and same-sex couples.

Going forward: WRO will continue to keep a watchful eye on the treatment of the queer community in the local real estate industry. In 2019, we were pleased to find our testing did not show any glaring negative trends. We also hope to see everyone at 2020 Westchester Pride.

Pride.

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.