

Welcome! Please sign-in. We will be starting shortly!



CDBG & CHIP Grant Program Opportunities

*Funding Opportunities for Wooster's Future
In Partnership With Fellow Communities*

FIRST ANNUAL PUBLIC COMBINED HEARING 2026

CDBG and CHIP Program

Monday, March 16, 2026 (6:00 PM)

Special Information Session on Fair Housing Immediately Following at 6:30pm

Presented by: City of Wooster

Wooster City Hall – Council Chambers, 538 N. Market Street, Wooster, Ohio, 44691

About Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Funding



CDBG stands for **Community Development Block Grant**, from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is a special source of federal funding to support local projects. **HOME** funds from HUD and also State of Ohio Trust Funds **OHTF** funds can be **combined** with CDBG to support **CHIP** housing projects.

CDBG provides Wooster with the ability to support projects it could not have funded otherwise:

- Housing rehabilitation for LMI households (**CHIP Program**)
- Transportation improvements
- Healthcare services
- Downtown revitalization and historic preservation

Topics for Public Hearing I:

Six Key Topics We'll Cover . . .



Citizen feedback is at the heart of the City of Wooster's programs and planning. We host hearings regularly because **we want to hear from you**. Today we will cover:

1. National and State program objectives
2. Estimated amount of funds available
3. Available Programs and their Requirements
4. Wooster's past performance with CDBG & CHIP
 - o Including CHIP Program and Special Projects
5. Important dates: Next hearings, application date, etc.
6. Citizen views and comments: Please give feedback!

Wooster applies to Ohio for Federal funds that it receives from HUD for "National Objectives"

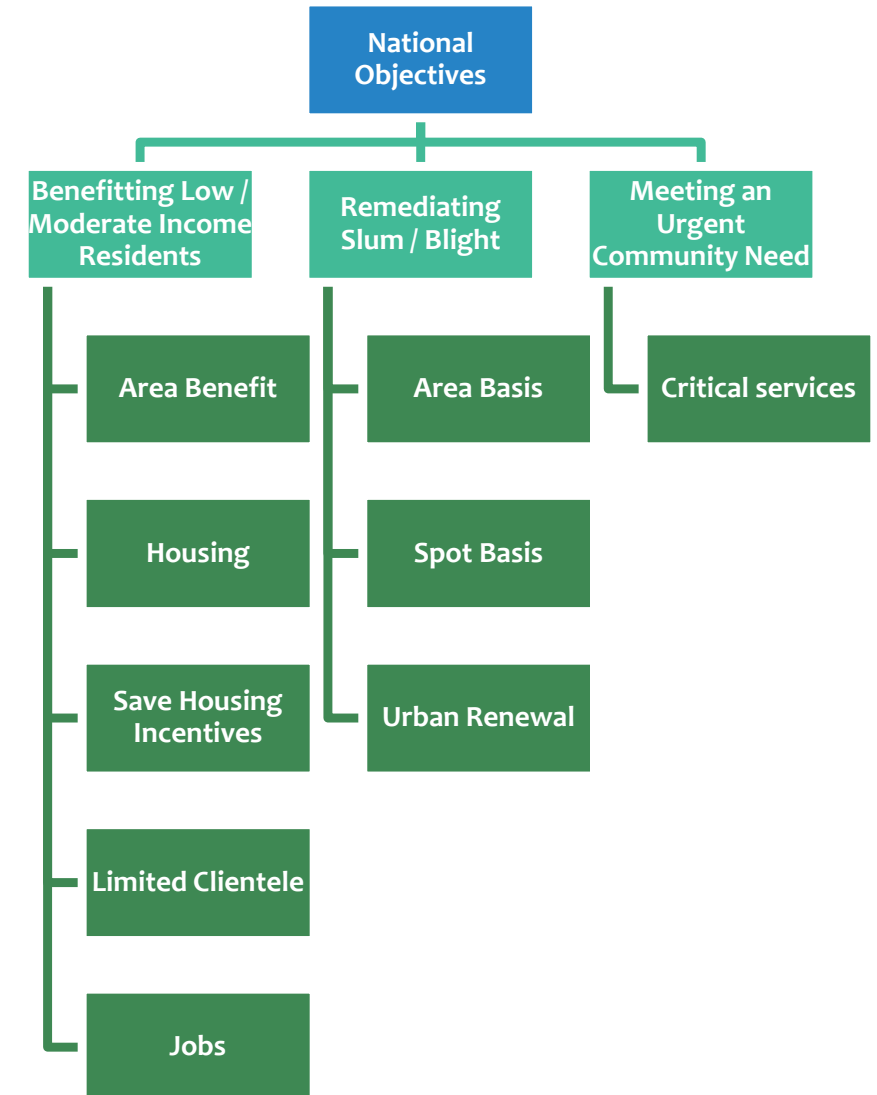




1. National and State Objectives: *The PURPOSE of the CDBG Grants*

CDBG Grants are provided to achieve special goals, called “**national objectives**”. In summary, these are:

1. **Activities that benefit low-moderate income persons**
2. **Actions to remediate slum and blight**
3. **Funding other urgent community needs**



1. National and State Objectives: *What Grants Can Accomplish*



Eligible Activities

For Allocation programs.
As outlined in the Consolidated Plan ([LINK](#)).

Types of projects State allows Wooster to use funds



- Public services - Labor, Equipment and Supplies, and Facility Maintenance Operations
- 20-04 – Use of Subrecipients for Public Services

State agency that partners with Wooster >



Learn more: development.ohio.gov/community



1. Low-to-Moderate Income: ≤ 80% of Area Median Income

- Most CDBG projects focus on benefitting Low-to-Moderate Income, or **LMI**, households
 - May include services, such as healthcare, for *income-qualified* persons
 - May include new waterlines in an LMI-majority neighborhood
- What does LMI mean in 2026/27?:

Wayne County 2026 Low-to-Moderate Income Definition:

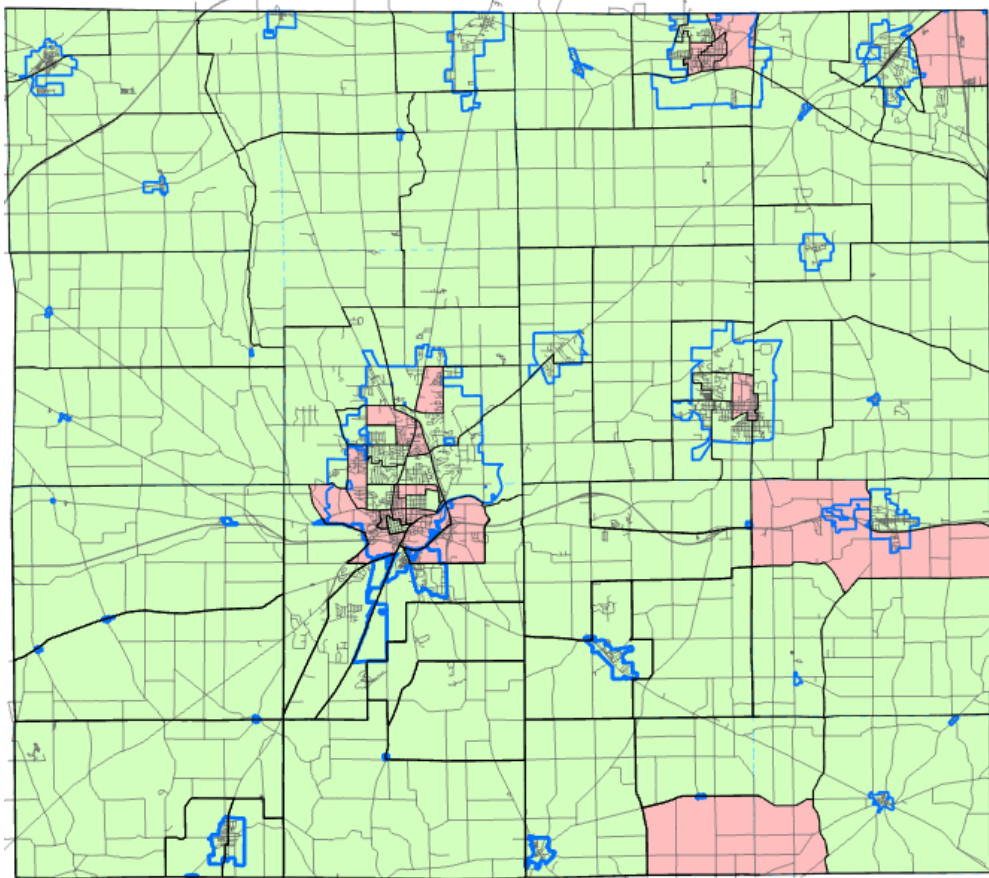
Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Very Low (50%) Income Limits	31,350	35,800	40,300	44,750	48,350	51,950	55,500	59,100
Extremely Low Income Limits	18,800	21,500	26,650	32,150	37,650	43,150	48,650	54,150
Low (80%) Income Limits	50,150	57,300	64,450	71,600	77,350	83,100	88,800	94,550

1. About Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – LMI Areas

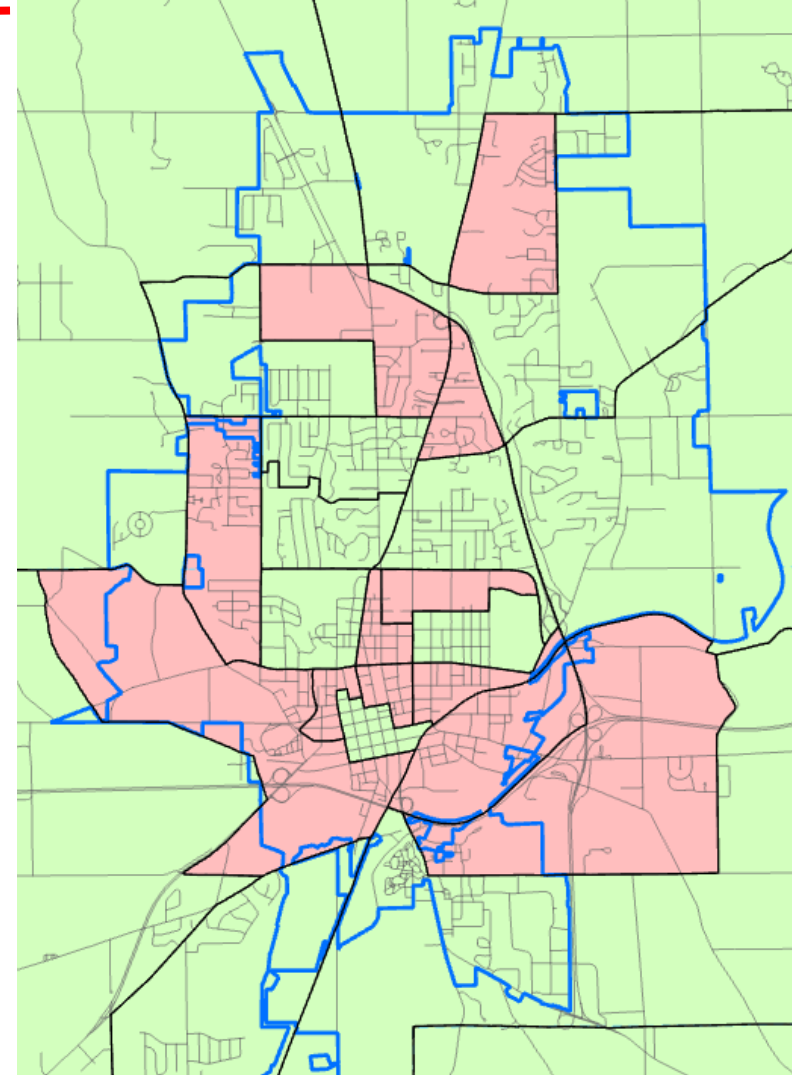


Last Study, Wooster's overall LMI percentage increased from **45.30%** to **47.50%**.

Map Key: = LMI 



LMI areas are defined by Census Block Groups. Beyond this, the City may also survey specific project areas (this requires a door-to-door income survey)



2. Estimated Funds Available Allocation & Competitive Grants



- CDBG Allocation Program (\$150,000)
 - Automatically available every 2 years for a qualified project.
- CDBG Competitive Grants
 - CDBG Critical Infrastructure (Up to \$500,000)
 - CDBG Flex Grant - Revitalization, services, etc. (\$250,000)
 - CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization (Up to \$750,000)
 - CDBG Economic Development Loans / Grants (Up to \$500,000)
 - Projects must result in the hiring of a majority LMI individuals
 - CHIP Grants (\$350,000 per City, \$400,000 per county)
 - Economic & Community Development Grant (\$250,000)
 - Residential Public Infrastructure Grants (\$750,000)

On average, Wooster's CDBG programs support \$360,000 in local funding annually for safety and quality of life, plus another \$300,000 for regions of the County through its CHIP program.

3. Requirements: Allocation

Available to Qualifying Communities for any National Objective Project



■ Allocation Grants

- Automatically available by application for any project that supports a **national objective**.
- Generally speaking, to meet national objectives, projects must either:

- **Directly serves infrastructure and quality of life for LMI residences**

- *Examples:* Sidewalks, waterlines, Fire Station rehabilitation, etc.

- **Alleviate slum & blight pressures:**

- *Examples:* North / South Street Parking Lots, Pedestrian Safety etc.

- **Support a limited clientele** (i.e., income qualified, or presumed LMI)

- *Examples:* Healthcare, transportation, etc.

- Services are usually limited to 15% of the total grant.

- **Fair Housing Program ALWAYS provided:** www.woosteroh.com/fair-housing



^ New South St. Parking made possible with CDBG Allocation funds, enabled construction of Liberty Beall project.

3. Requirements: “Competitives”

Meant to competitively meet National Objectives



■ Critical Infrastructure

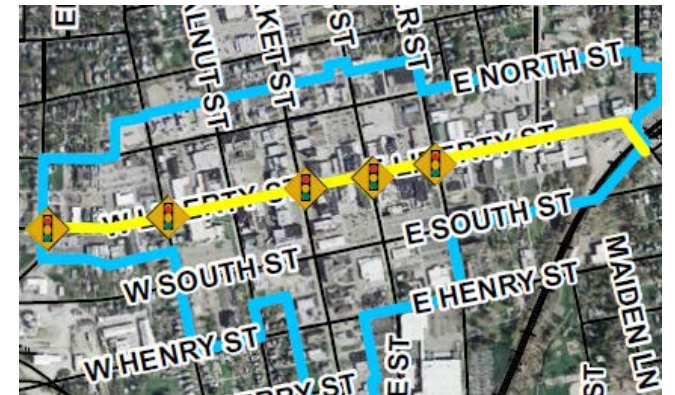
- Supports essential infrastructure (i.e. bridge, road, waterline, etc.) Local match required.

■ Neighborhood Revitalization

- Usually multi-component project to support quality of life and redevelopment within a neighborhood. Local matching funds and a neighborhood plan required.

■ Flex Grants

- Downtown Building Rehabilitation, with local match required from building owners.
- Community Development, which may include services, that prove a national objective but do not otherwise fit other programming.



Critical: \$600K for New Traffic and Pedestrian Signaling Systems



Flex: \$250K for Building Rehab.

3. Requirements: “Competitives”

Continued



■ Economic Development

- Funding for direct business loans or for public infrastructure, with a commitment of basic-sector job creation and guarantee that 51 percent of all jobs being taken by LMI individuals.

■ Residential Public Infrastructure

- Water and sanitary sewer service for LMI residential users to resolve a human health hazard. Proof of financial solvency and affordable combined fees (combined rate not to exceed \$60/mo.)

■ CHIP Grant Program

- Provides funding to LMI homeowners for emergency repair and full-scale rehabilitation projects. Funding is also open to landlords to repair facilities in exchange for rent control. Downpayment assistance is also available to LMI homebuyers.

3. Requirements: Summary



Eligible Activities – Program Specific

	Allocation	Neighborhood Revitalization	Critical Infrastructure	Residential Public Infrastructure	Economic Development	Flexible
✓	Eligible Activities are outlined in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (LINK).	Public facility improvements in residential areas.	Infrastructure such as streets, bridges, sidewalks, flood and drainage.	Residential water and sanitary sewer projects.	Financial assistance to private for-profits, job training, public improvements for business or industrial development.	Downtown, public rehab and public services projects that display immediate need.
✗		Downtown, public services, housing activities, ED, CI, or RPIG projects.	Planning, public services, multiple infrastructure in multiple locations, central business districts, commercial areas.	Commercial/Industrial water projects, solely on-site water improvements.	Debt, working capital, not-capital equipment, speculative projects, business relocation.	Projects that fit within ED loan, CI, NRG and RPIG.

4. Past Performance

\$192,000 Flex (Discretionary) Grant



- Viola Startzman could only afford to hire one licensed counselor at a time - that clinician's time had to be covered by private donations until they could be certified through Medicaid and a slew of private insurance providers so they could bill for reimbursement - a process that can take up to **18 months**. Once certified for reimbursement, Viola Startzman could add the *next* clinician to their team.

- An injection of funding from **CDBG** allowed the program to **scale** substantially faster, while expressly expanding access for LMI residents.
- Grant enabled Viola Startzman to triple its staffing and directly serve residents in the Downtown and throughout the area.

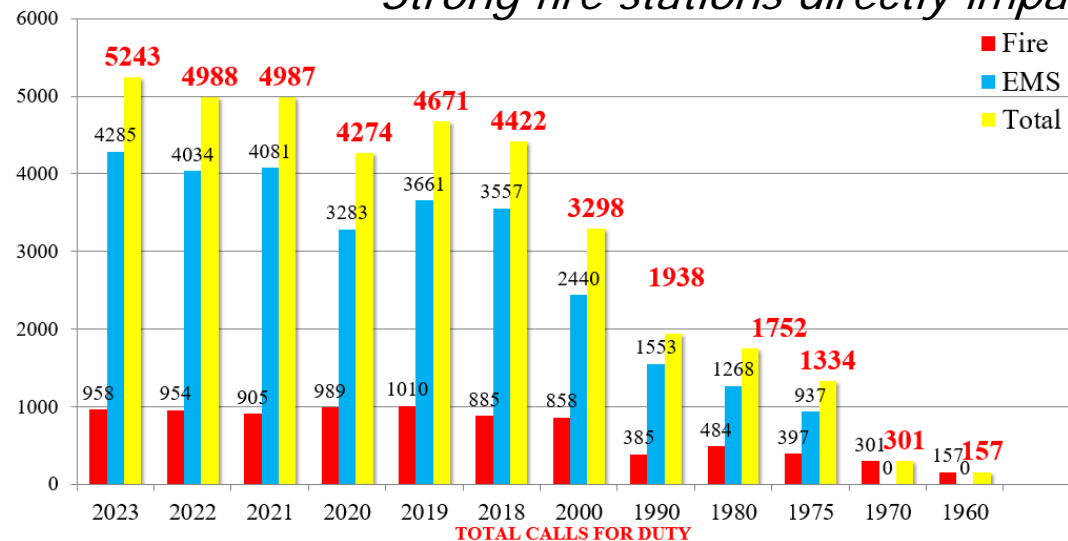
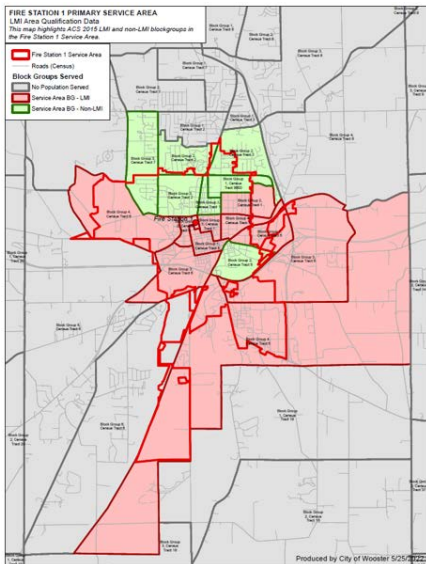


4. Past Performance

\$500,000 Critical Infrastructure Grant

- Wooster's 61-year old **Fire Station 1** serves the greatest concentration of LMI households and largest collection of historic properties in Wayne County, with calls for service growing 125% in the past 25 years
- A \$500,000 CDBG Critical Infrastructure Grant, paired with a \$150,000 Allocation Grant, enabled the City to close a funding gap to move forward with construction in 2023, allowing the City to **improve** quality of care.

** Strong fire stations directly impact individuals' homeowner insurance bills.*



4. Past Performance

\$150,000 Allocation Grant



- Wooster utilized CDBG Allocation funds to launch a new public transportation system in 2025. The project replaced an antiquated reimbursement-based taxi service with a true accessible public transportation program.



CDBG funds a PORTION of the system's cost to provide point-to-point services for elderly and disabled clients, enabling the City to provide more service hours. The system is boosted with support from transportation funds and user fees.

4. Community Housing Impact Preservation Program (CHIP)



■ **FUNDED For 2026!** - What is CHIP?

– City of Wooster is grant lead for a Partnership including Wayne County, Orrville, and WMHA and also Rittman. **\$1MM in funding for home repairs and rehabilitation projects!**

■ Private Owner Rehabilitation (**Accepting Applications**)

A forgivable mortgage to perform rehabilitations.

■ Home Repair Program (**Accepting Applications**) Funding for repairs such as roofing or plumbing.

■ Other CHIP Programs (100% forgivable loan/grant programs – **not available**):

- Homeownership Program / Down-payment Assistance
- Rental Rehabilitation (*Pending Discontinuation in Wooster)
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (Not recommended)
- Rental Repair Assistance (Not recommended)

** Wooster, Wayne County, Orrville, and other community partners use CHIP to fill the most impactful gaps in home repair without other meaningful programming. The Partnership uses a Housing Advisory Committee made up of a consortium of housing and social service providers for recommendations.*

5. Path Forward

Next Steps



- March or April: Community Development Implementation Strategy
- ~April or May: Second Public Hearing
 - CHIP? Transportation? Infrastructure? Revitalization?
- ~June 18, 2026: Application Deadline for most grants
- June/July 2026: Environmental Reviews
- September - December: Grants authorized
- January 2027 through Dec 2029: Execution
 - For Additional Information, please visit:
www.development.ohio.gov
or Call: 330.263.5250



6. Questions & Comments



- Evaluating for 2026: Housing (CHIP), Transportation, Infrastructure, and Services.

Your Comments & Questions Matter!



- How we identify projects:
 - Comprehensive Plan based on citizen survey
 - Community outreach
 - Coordination with partner governments and agencies (Community Development Implementation Strategy or **CDIS**)

Thank you!



- Questions / Comments on ...
 - 2nd Public Hearing for all projects
 - **CHIP Hearing for all partners**
 - **Additional?**
 - Past CDBG Application(s)
 - Future Opportunities

THANK YOU!

Presented by: The City of Wooster

CDBG Contact: Jonathan Millea – 330.263.5250

A past CDBG Project - Repairing Broken Sidewalks>>





City of Wooster *Fair Housing Informational Session*

*Learn about Fair Housing Rights and how our Community
has been working to keep Wooster a Welcoming Place*

Informational Session
Monday, March 16, 2026 (6:30 PM)

*Presented by: City of Wooster
Wooster City Hall – Council Chambers, 538 N. Market Street, Wooster, Oh.*

Fair Housing

Why it Matters



- Laws protecting people from discrimination against **race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, ancestry, or military status** is an essential consumer protection.
- Fair Housing practices help protect individuals, landlords, Realtors, and the community at large from unlawful discrimination.
- Unlawful discrimination hurts the entire community through limiting individual freedoms as well as access to housing and economic opportunities. Beyond education, Wooster's Fair Housing Program provides complaint referrals.



Welcome and About Wooster's Program

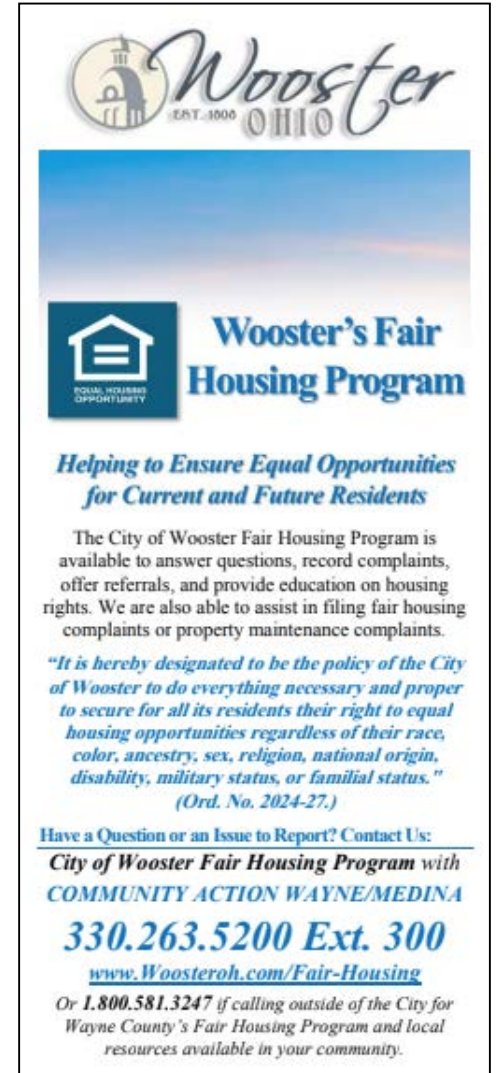


The Wooster Fair Housing Program is available during normal business hours to answer questions about Fair Housing issues. For the Fair Housing Office (and Fair Housing Officer), please call:

330.263.5200 Ext. 300

We work to provide tenants, landlords, and homeowners with resources to help understand fair housing rights. We also document fair housing complaints. We will help you get to the right place.

www.woosteroh.com/Fair-Housing



The flyer features the City of Wooster logo at the top left, followed by a blue gradient background. Below this is the Equal Housing Opportunity logo and the text "Wooster's Fair Housing Program". The main text describes the program's purpose and includes a quote from a city ordinance. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

Wooster
EST. 1808 OHIO

**Wooster's Fair
Housing Program**

*Helping to Ensure Equal Opportunities
for Current and Future Residents*

The City of Wooster Fair Housing Program is available to answer questions, record complaints, offer referrals, and provide education on housing rights. We are also able to assist in filing fair housing complaints or property maintenance complaints.

*"It is hereby designated to be the policy of the City of Wooster to do everything necessary and proper to secure for all its residents their right to equal housing opportunities regardless of their race, color, ancestry, sex, religion, national origin, disability, military status, or familial status."
(Ord. No. 2024-27.)*

Have a Question or an Issue to Report? Contact Us:
**City of Wooster Fair Housing Program with
COMMUNITY ACTION WAYNE/MEDINA**
330.263.5200 Ext. 300
www.Woosteroh.com/Fair-Housing
Or **1.800.581.3247** if calling outside of the City for
Wayne County's Fair Housing Program and local
resources available in your community.

Welcome and About Wooster's Program



Wooster Fair Housing Contact

Complaint Intake

Record General Information

Assistance with filing complaints with HUD or OCRC

Education (Trainings)

*Between 4-5 a year.
Also by request.*

Fair Housing training in each CDBG / HOME target area or target population

Fair Housing education to schools, local organizations, or civic groups

Outreach

Production of effective fair housing informational materials

Distribution to of materials to agencies in Wooster
Thank You!

Analysis of Impediments

Analysis

Identification of impediments

Proposed remedies

Action plan with a timetable

Recordkeeping

Local Impediments To Fair Housing Choice



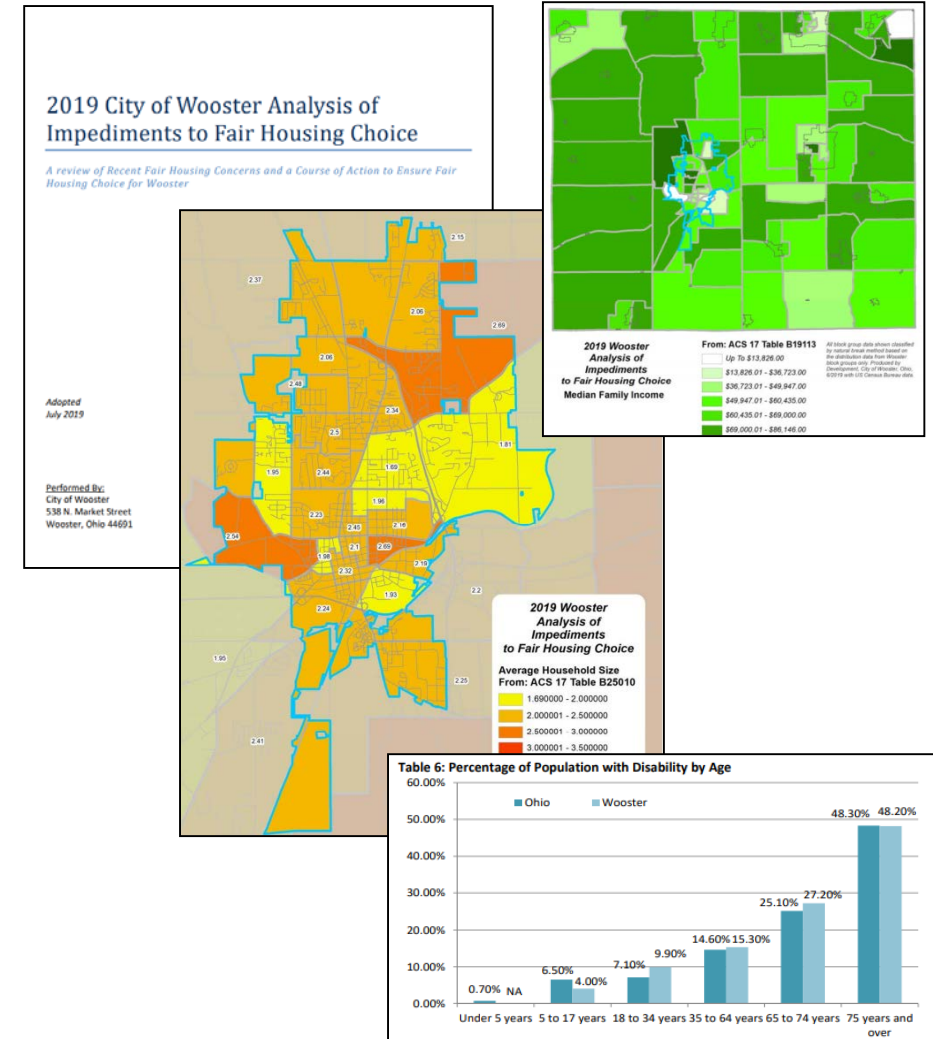
The NE Ohio region averages 75 *substantiated* Fair Housing violations annually.

Wooster Receives around **30 calls** annually, vast majority are not fair-housing related, but our office attempts to share applicable housing resources.

See our local Analysis online at:

www.woosteroh.com/fair-housing.

- **Many fair-housing related calls** are from new landlords seeking best practices to be compliant.
- **1 to 2** complaints annually - Most common complaints involved violations against **Disabled** persons.
- Local allegations have been made concerning disability, familial status, race, and sex in last ten years.



When a Problem Arises

Being Prepared



- Those who feel they are being treated unfairly should take the following steps to protect themselves:
 - Keep a record of any meetings and phone calls with landlords, property managers, real estate agents, loan officers, or insurance agents.
 - Write down what happened and what was said by all participants. Save all receipts, applications, leases, business cards, brochures, or other documents that were given.
 - Call the City of Wooster Fair Housing Program at:

330.263.5200 Ext. 300

If calling about a housing concern outside of City Limits, please call 1.800.581.3247 for the Wayne County Fair Housing Program to receive information on specific help available in your community

*Contact us at:
330.263.5200 Ext. 300
Heather Sipple
Fair Housing Specialist*



The City of Wooster has teamed up with the fair housing experts at Community Action Wayne/Medina to help answer your questions!

More Information @ woosteroh.com/fair-housing



FIRE POLICE UTILITIES CAREERS f t @ in v Q (330) 263-5200

DEPARTMENTS GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY RESOURCES CONTACT

Economic Development / Fair Housing

Fair Housing

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- Answer questions
- Provide education on housing rights
- Help assist residents or prospective residents in filing fair housing complaints.

Fair housing is the unlawful discrimination of persons or families based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, ancestry, or military status.

- "It is hereby designated to be the policy of the City to do all of the things necessary and proper to secure for all its residents their right to equal housing opportunities regardless of their race, color, creed, sex, religious belief, national origin, handicap or familial status." (Ord. 1991-34. Passed 6-3-91.)

Familial status includes non-discrimination of households with children. With regard to disabilities, landlords are generally required to provide reasonable accommodations to assist persons with disabilities.

Potential fair housing complaints are informed of fair housing rights and remedies and appropriate resources. Other callers (landlord/tenant or inquiries) are referred to the appropriate authorities. Please support your neighbors and support your City. If you know someone with housing concerns or questions, please refer them to the Wooster Fair Housing Program for assistance.



Fair Housing Info and Local Resources:

- Landlord Tenant Services
- Property Maintenance
- Tenant Rent Escrow Info
- Analysis of Impediments
- Ohio Attorney General's Guide for Landlords
- Emotional Support Animals (ESAs)
- Mold/Pest Issues
- Fair Housing Training Materials

Formal Complaint Agencies:

<https://civ.ohio.gov/>
www.hud.gov/fairhousing



Wooster's Fair Housing Program – *THANK YOU!*

Support Your Community

Whether seeking information on how to provide services with best fair housing practices, or if you have a client or visitor with a concern, please remember we are available to offer advice on area resources that may be able to help. As always, thank you for all of the important work your agency does, and for your support in helping our Fair Housing program along the way.

Wooster's Fair Housing Program:
*Education & Training | Public Outreach
Research | Consultation & Complaint Intake*



Contact us at:
330.263.5200 Ext. 300
Heather Sipple
Fair Housing Specialist



*The City of Wooster has teamed up
with the fair housing experts at
Community Action Wayne/Medina
to help answer your questions!*