

The City of Mount Vernon, NY requests your participation in a brief survey designed to identify fair housing and other housing and economic development issues in the City. As a recipient of federal funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Mount Vernon, NY is required to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing. It is also required to develop 5-year comprehensive plans for housing and community development to determine the types of projects that should be financed in the future with federal housing and community development funds. The City of Mount Vernon anticipates receiving \$10 million dollars for housing and community development in the next five years. Completing this survey will help us gain a more qualitative analysis of the knowledge, experiences, opinions and feelings of community members on these topics across the City.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this survey. Your input is important. Feel free to forward this survey on to stakeholders we may have missed.

Definitions of Fair Housing:

Federal Fair Housing - Equal and free access to housing choices regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap or disability, familial status, and national origin.

Barriers to Fair Housing Choice - Any actions, omissions or decisions which have the effect of restricting housing choices for the groups defined above, through sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing or the provision of brokerage services.

1. Are you completing this survey as a citizen or on behalf of a business or nonprofit organization?

- Citizen
- Business
- Non-Profit

2. Where do you live?

- City of Mount Vernon
- Westchester County
- Outside of Westchester County

3. Please provide your zip code.

4. How long have you lived in Mount Vernon?

- Less than one year
- 1 – 4 years
- 5 – 9 years
- 10+ years

5. What is your sex or gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Other

6. What is your race?

- White
- African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- More than one race
- American Indian/Alaskan Native

Tribal Affiliation (please specify)

7. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- Yes
- No

8. What is the primary language you speak?

- English (American)
- Spanish
- Other (please specify)

9. Do you have a disability or disabling condition?

- Yes
- No

10. What is your annual household income (before taxes)? Choose one.

- Less than \$20,000
- \$20,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$29,999
- \$30,000 - \$44,999
- \$45,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 or above

11. With how many people do you live?

- Alone
- With one other person
- With 3 to 5 others
- With more than 6 others

12. What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-64
- 65 or older

13. In general, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the area in which you live, or spend most of your time? Where 10 is the best and 1 is the worst.

0 5 10

14. Why did you rate the area in which you live that way?

15. Which best describes your living situation?

- Own, with mortgage
- Own, no mortgage
- Rent from a private landlord (no assistance)
- Rent with public assistance (Section 8 or other) from a private landlord
- Rent in a public housing complex
- Rent in an income-qualified complex (low income housing)
- Live with others
- Live in shelter or are homeless

16. Have you experienced any of the following in the past two years? (Select all that apply.)

- Difficulty paying rent/mortgage
- Difficulty paying utilities
- Dissatisfaction with local services (Trash pick-up, street maintenance)
- Plumbing, electric, appliances or other items in your home do not work
- Inability to make needed repairs/improvement to your home
- Overcrowding; too many people living in one house
- Crime or abandoned buildings in your neighborhood
- Houses in poor condition in your neighborhood
- Vandalism
- Homelessness
- Application for housing was denied
- Application for mortgage loan denied
- Other (please specify)

17. Are you familiar with Fair Housing or Anti-discrimination Laws?

- Not Familiar
- Somewhat Familiar
- Familiar
- Very Familiar
- Unsure

18. Are you aware of your rights under Fair Housing and Anti-discrimination laws?

- Yes
- No

19. What are barriers to housing choice in Mount Vernon that you have experienced or observed? (Select all that apply.)

- Accessibility for people with disabilities or disabling conditions
- Housing restricted based on age
- Condition of housing units
- Cost of housing
- Concentration of affordable housing options in certain neighborhoods
- Distance to employment, schools, shopping, or services
- Diversity of housing stock
- Transportation/ access to public transportation
- Utility cost
- Other (please specify)

20. I believe that people are protected by federal, state, or local fair housing or anti-discrimination laws because of: (Select all that apply.)

- Religion
- Familial Status, such as having children or being pregnant
- Sexual orientation, such as being heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual
- Sex or gender Identity, such as being female, male, transgender or not identifying with a particular gender
- National origin or the country where a person was born
- Ancestry
- Age, such as being young or elderly
- Race or ethnicity
- Marital status or spousal affiliation, such as being married, domestic partnership, single or divorced
- Income level
- Source of income, such as receiving some type of public assistance
- Creed or a person's beliefs
- Physical, Mental, or Behavioral Disability or Disabling Condition
- Criminal background, felony conviction or exiting incarceration

21. Are you aware of any incidents of housing discrimination in the City of Mount Vernon in the last five years?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure.

22. If so, on what basis do you believe that the discrimination occurred? (Select all that apply.)

- Religion
- Familial Status, such as having children or being pregnant
- Sexual orientation, such as being heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual
- Sex or gender Identity, such as being female, male, transgender or not identifying with a particular gender
- National origin or the country where a person was born
- Ancestry
- Age, such as being young or elderly
- Race or ethnicity
- Marital status or spousal affiliation, such as being married, domestic partnership, single or divorced
- Income level
- Source of income, such as receiving some type of public assistance
- Creed or a person's beliefs
- Physical, Mental, or Behavioral Disability or Disabling Condition
- Criminal background, felony conviction or exiting incarceration

23. Who was responsible or involved in the discrimination? (Select all that apply.)

- Landlord/property manager
- Mortgage lender
- Real estate agent
- Other (please specify)

24. Where did the act of discrimination occur?

- Apartment complex
- Single family neighborhood
- Condo development
- Other (please specify)

25. Did you report the incident to:

- A government agency
- A fair housing group
- I did not report the incident
- To someone else (please specify)

26. If you did not report the incident, why not?

- I did not know where to report it.
- I was afraid of retaliation.
- I was not sure of my rights.
- I did not think it would make a difference.
- Other (please specify)

27. Are you aware of fair housing or anti-discrimination education opportunities in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

28. Have you ever participated in any sort of fair housing or anti-discrimination education opportunity?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If Yes, please explain:

29. Please share any additional comments regarding fair housing or discrimination.

30. How much of your household income do you spend on housing (including insurance and utilities)?

- Less than 10%
- 10 – 19%
- 20 – 24%
- 25 – 29%
- 30 – 49%
- More than 50%

31. Decent, Safe, and Affordable Housing (Please identify your priorities by clicking on the appropriate bubble.)

	Low	Medium	High	Don't know
Providing decent, safe, affordable housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repairing homes owned by households with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Repairing apartments rented by households with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building new rental apartments for households with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building new homes for homebuyers with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making low-interest loans for homebuyers with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing housing opportunities for people that are homeless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing services for people that are homeless	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing housing opportunities for people with special needs, like the frail elderly, or people with disabilities, alcohol or drug addiction, or HIV/AIDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Low	Medium	High	Don't know
Providing services for people with special needs, like the frail elderly, or people with disabilities, alcohol or drug addiction, or HIV/AIDS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing housing opportunities for individuals exiting incarceration or individuals with felony convictions/ criminal backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing services for individuals exiting incarceration or individuals with felony convictions/ criminal backgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing housing opportunities for veterans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing services for veterans	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Neighborhood Revitalization (Please identify your priorities by clicking on the appropriate bubble.)

	Low	Medium	High	Don't know
Building or improving water and sewer lines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building or improving streets, sidewalks, and drainage in the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eliminating environmental hazards such as trash, vacant or dilapidated buildings and overgrown lots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upgrading parks and recreational facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing resources for neighborhood organizing and leadership development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing assistance to neighborhoods for development of plans and strategies to encourage appropriate development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing incentives for the development of neighborhood stores in under-served areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involving citizens in violence reduction and crime prevention efforts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing after-school programs and childcare for children and youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing wellness programs for infants, youth and adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programming to address discrimination and support diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

33. Economic Development (Please identify your priorities by clicking on the appropriate bubble.)

	Low	Medium	High	Don't know
Making low-interest business development loans to people with low or moderate incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financing projects that increase jobs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing financing for job training programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. Out of the following categories, which do you feel is most underfunded and the greatest need?

- Affordable housing (both rental and homeownership opportunities)
- Small business assistance (i.e. access to capital)
- Employment training/workforce development
- Mental health and substance abuse
- Domestic violence
- Re-entry into community by formerly incarcerated persons
- Services for disabled persons
- Traffic lights
- Other (please specify)

35. Write any other comments regarding housing and community development in the space below that you would like to share with us.