



# FAIR HOUSING DIVISION:

Livable City Initiative (LCI) Email:

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## Fair Housing, it's Your Right:

### Who Is a Limited English Proficient Individual?

Persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English can be limited English proficient, or "LEP." (Federal Register/Vol. 72, No. 13/Monday, January 22, 2001/Notices).

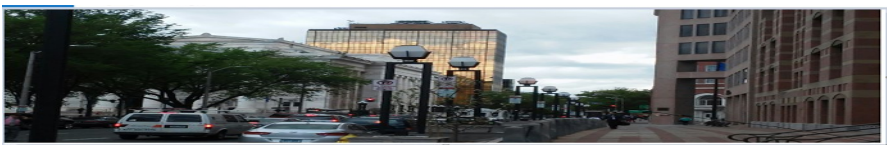
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) protects individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) against housing discrimination by prohibiting landlords from using limited English proficiency in a way that causes an "unjustified discriminatory effect."

LEP, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, isn't considered a protected class, though it's closely linked to the protected classes of "National Origin" and "Race," which may disproportionately burden certain groups within these characteristics, the law prohibits landlords from using limited English proficiency in a way that causes an unjustified discriminatory effect.

"Having a limited ability to speak English should never be a reason to be denied a home," said *Gustavo Velasquez, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity*. "Every family that calls this nation home has the same rights when it comes to renting or buying a home, regardless of where they come from or the language they speak." (HUD.Gov)

There are more than 25 million people in the USA who do not communicate proficiently in English, representing nearly 9 percent of the population – approximately 16,350,000 (or 65%) of these individuals speak Spanish, while 1,660,000 (7%) speak Chinese, 850,000 (3%) speak Vietnamese, 620,000 (2%) speak Korean and 530,000 (2%) speak Tagalog. Understandably, housing decisions based on a criterion for limiting people with LEP would most likely have a greater impact on these and other groups because of their nationality. (HUD.Gov) (National Fair Housing Alliance)

If you feel that you've been victimized by housing discrimination in the City of New Haven, please call LCI at 203-946-7062/7090 for assistance/resources.



Downtown New Haven, Connecticut