



Fair Housing Center of West Michigan  
20 Hall St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

### **Qualifications for Testers**

The following are some of the key points to consider when deciding whether or not to become a fair housing “tester.”

1. Testers of **any gender** are needed in **all races, ethnic identities, religions, disability status, sexualities, and ages**.
2. Testers are **actors** and need to be able to feel comfortable **playing the role of a homeseeker**.
3. Testers need to be **flexible**, able to adjust to changing situations and still perform their assigned role as homeseeker.
4. Testers are **trained** in testing procedures by experienced fair housing tester trainers, and follow specific tester assignments for each test.
5. Testers need to be **objective** observers of events. Testers do not try to “find” discrimination. Testers instead pose as homeseekers and make accurate observations of what transpires during their test.
6. Testers must be **accurate recorders** of events. Testers will be expected to make a complete record of their test on a FHC Test Report Form. The ability to use a word processor, adobe, or to write legibly and coherently is crucial.
7. Testers make **credible witnesses** in court. Preference will be given to those whose past background, current standing in the community and ability to convey a message of truthfulness and competence will be recognized and respected by members of a jury. Therefore, individualized assessments are considered for testers with any criminal history.
8. Testers must be **reliable** individuals who can be counted on to complete their agreed-upon assignments at the proper time and in the proper manner.
9. Testers must be willing to maintain **strict confidentiality** about their role as a tester. Normally, only your spouse/companion/immediate family need to know you are or are planning to become a “tester.”
10. Testers may be called upon to **serve as witnesses** in administrative hearings, depositions or court trials.
11. Testers must keep the Test Coordinator informed of any changes in address, phone number, employment or family status. Having consistent access to a phone as well as an email is necessary for **ongoing communication**.