



KIRWAN INSTITUTE  
for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

**The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity**

The Ohio State University  
33 West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 209  
Columbus, OH 43201  
kirwaninstitute.osu.edu

Date: September 15, 2014

Re: **FHFA's Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2015-2019: Request for Public Input**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the **FHFA Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2015-2019** ("the Plan"). We appreciate the Plan's continued stewardship of the GSE mission to "Ensure Liquidity, Stability, and Access in Housing Finance," and to "Promote minority and women inclusion in the activities of FHFA and the regulated entities" as required by Dodd-Frank.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and we as a nation are reflecting upon the importance of that Act, and the subsequent legislative and regulatory acts that promoted equal opportunity for all. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 (and as amended in 1988) was and remains foundational to this nation's attempt to remedy the past injustice of segregation of individuals, families, and communities of color from many, if not most, of the core places, relationships, services, and resources needed to build a healthy home and a healthy community, such as education, work, transportation, and shelter.

It thus is timely to underscore the need for FHFA to ensure that the Regulated Entities advance and promote the goals of the Fair Housing Act. This includes the prohibition of discrimination in both the primary and secondary mortgage markets.<sup>1</sup>

We hope that the Strategic Plan issued in its final form will include (a) an explicit acknowledgment that the Regulated Entities are subject to Fair Housing obligations; and (b) a section outlining the data that FHFA will acquire and review to ensure compliance with the Fair Housing Act, and how and when that data will be shared with the public. We further encourage FHFA to use all available tools at its disposal to combat discrimination in all housing-related transactions.

Yours Sincerely,

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Christy Rogers  
Director of Outreach

Christy Rogers, PhD

Director of Outreach, The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity

Editor, *Where Credit is Due: Bringing Equity to Credit and Housing after the Market Meltdown*

## References

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<sup>i</sup> See 42 U.S.C §3605(b). *Discrimination in residential real estate-related transactions*: “Residential real estate-related transaction” defined: As used in this section, the term “residential real estate-related transaction” means any of the following: (1) The making or purchasing of loans or providing other financial assistance—(A) for purchasing, constructing, improving, repairing, or maintaining a dwelling; or (B) secured by residential real estate; and

24 CFR 81.41 (2012). “In this subpart, the Secretary: prohibits discrimination by the GSEs in their mortgage purchases because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, age, or national origin, including any consideration of the age or location of a dwelling or age of the neighborhood or census tract where the dwelling is located in a manner that has a discriminatory effect; requires that the GSEs submit information to the Secretary to assist Fair Housing Act and ECOA investigations; provides for advising the GSEs of Fair Housing Act and ECOA violations; provides for reviewing the GSEs’ underwriting and appraisal guidelines to ensure compliance with the Fair Housing Act; and requires that the GSEs take actions as directed by the Secretary following Fair Housing Act and ECOA adjudications. Because FHEFSSA provides, generally, that the Director of OFHEO shall enforce violations by the GSEs of FHEFSSA and regulations in this subpart, this subpart also provides for referral of such cases to the Director.”