



CONTACT:
Kelly Larson
City of Dubuque Human Rights Department
klarson@cityofdubuque.org
563-589-4190

NEWS RELEASE

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City to Hold ‘Source of Income’ Dialogue Sessions

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The City of Dubuque will host a series of dialogue sessions with area landlords (housing providers) and renters related to the availability of quality, affordable rental units for renters who use various sources of income to pay their rent, including but not limited to Housing Choice Vouchers (“Section 8”).

The dialogue sessions will provide participants data on affordable housing needs in the community, Housing Choice Voucher program operations, and concerns that have been expressed by renters, housing providers, and others in the community regarding ways to meet community needs. Participants will be offered the opportunity to have conversations about the necessity of a community solution and the pros and cons of various approaches that have been proposed.

Separate dialogue sessions will be held for landlords and renters, though the general public is welcome to attend any of these sessions. All sessions will be facilitated by City staff and information collected will be forwarded to the City’s Source of Income (SOI) working group, which has been meeting regularly and gathering community data on housing needs over the past two years.

Sessions for **landlords/housing providers**:

- Tuesday, Sept. 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m., HyVee Club Room, 3500 Dodge St.
- Tuesday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave.

Sessions for **renters**:

- Wednesday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center, 1151 White St.
- Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave.

Snacks will be provided and attendees will have the opportunity to enter into a gift card drawing.

The Dubuque City Council established the Source of Income (SOI) working group in December 2014 after the City of Dubuque Human Rights Commission recommended creation of a task force to consider whether or not to add “source of income” to the City’s non-discrimination ordinance. Adding “source of income” to the City’s non-discrimination ordinance would make it illegal to refuse to rent to someone based solely on the fact that they would be using a Housing Choice Voucher or other legal sources of income to pay a portion of their rent. At least 12 states and two communities in Iowa have Source of Income ordinances. Currently in Dubuque, there are an estimated 2,500 households whose incomes are low enough that they cannot find housing they can afford. About 970 households are currently served by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

The SOI working group is in the process of surveying tenants and landlords and is evaluating the types, opportunities, and limitations of Source of Income Ordinances and is also researching other approaches to addressing housing needs in our community. The various perspectives on the issue that are elicited through the dialogue sessions will be included in the SOI working group’s report to the City Council in December 2016.

Accommodations may be arranged for transportation, childcare, interpretation services, or disability in order to fully participate in these dialogue sessions. To request an accommodation, please contact the Human Rights Department at 563-589-4190 or humanrgt@cityofdubuque.org.

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