The Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) serves to protect the rights of all Chicagoans to live in a city free from discrimination and hate. Essential to this work are the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance, the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance, and the Commission’s two major programs, Adjudication and Inter-Group Relations.

Through our Adjudication Division, the CCHR enforces the Chicago Human Rights and Fair Housing Ordinances to fight discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and bonding. Through these powerful ordinances, CCHR investigates complaints to determine whether discrimination may have occurred. If substantial evidence of a violation is found, the complainant may pursue the case in an administrative hearing. The CCHR uses its enforcement powers to punish acts of discrimination by ordering monetary damages, injunctive relief, and fines in cases where individuals have been discriminated against based on their race, color, sex, age (over 40), religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income, or credit history (employment only).

Through Inter-Group Relations, the CCHR takes a proactive approach to prevent discrimination and address tensions that may arise between groups based on racial, religious, economic, or other forms of difference. The CCHR works in communities to prevent these tensions from escalating into hate crimes and other acts of violence. Intervention tools include mediation, education and community engagement. Under the City's Hate Crimes Law, the agency advocates for and offers assistance to hate crime victims. Hate crimes are particularly damaging because they harm not only the individual victim and family, but also the victim’s identified group.

The Commission on Human Relations also has three advisory councils whose members are appointed by the mayor and serve three year terms: the Advisory Council on Equity (whose members include leadership from the African, Asian, Arab, and Latino communities), Advisory Council on Women and LGBT Issues, and the Advisory Council on Veterans. The councils work with the Commission to address practices which have a discriminatory impact. In addition, the councils serve as liaisons between City government and the community to promote cooperation and enhance services. They also provide assistance in designing educational and enforcement programs for the Commission.
**Organizational Structure**

**FY 2013 Operating Budget:** $2,478,533

**Office Location:** 740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60654

**Staff:** 20 full-time positions

**Governing Body:** Commission on Human Relations,
Board of Commissioners

**FOIA Contact Information:** Freedom of Information Act requests and requests for public records should be directed to the Commission’s Freedom of Information Officer at:

Email: cchrfoia@cityofchicago.org
Mail: CCHR FOIA Officer
Chicago Commission on Human Relations
740 N. Sedgwick, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60654

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