

## BOWLING GREEN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### BOWLING GREEN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HISTORY & MISSION STATEMENT



*The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission was established by the City of Bowling Green ordinance of 1966. The agency aims to promote fair treatment and equal opportunity for all citizens of Bowling Green and Warren County. Our agency operates with funding from the City of Bowling, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to promote fair housing and Warren County. The BGHRC has 2 full-time employees Alice Waddell, Executive Director, and Chiquita Lightfoot, Administrative Coordinator and Fair Housing Outreach Education Coordinator. The agency has 13 board members appointed by the Mayor and City Commissioners. Our agency investigates allegations of discrimination in the characteristics of protected classes of race, color, age over 40, disability, religion, sex, national origin and familial status in housing. The areas of jurisdiction are Employment, Housing, Public Accommodation.*

#### **Mission Statement**

*The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission was established by City Ordinance on August 1, 1966, with a mission to promote fair treatment and equal opportunity regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), sex or disability. The Commission dedicates itself to opening doors of opportunity, eliminating discrimination and promoting positive human relations within the community. Additional responsibilities & goals of the Human Rights Commission are as follows:*

- a. To receive, initiate, investigate and seek to conciliate complaints alleging discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodation.*
- b. To promote mutual understanding and respect that will lead to elimination of discrimination among all economic, social, racial, religious, and ethnic groups.*

#### THIS MONTH NEWSLETTER FEATURES:

##### HOUSING INFORMATION

- Housing Market Trends
- Housing Assistance & Programs
- Cost of Living
- Low-Income Housing in Bowling Green
- Where to file a complaint of discrimination
- Contact Information

- c. To recommend methods for elimination of discrimination and inter-group tensions, and to secure compliance with recommendations.
- d. To cooperate with various departments, agencies, and boards of the city and the commonwealth in effectuating these purposes.
- e. To enlist the support of civic, labor, religious, professional, educational organizations and institutions in community activities and programs that will further these purposes.
- f. To organize community committees and councils that will work toward these goals.



### **FAIR HOUSING HISTORY**

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as the follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, and as amended handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is known as the Fair Housing Act 1968. The enactment of the Federal Fair Housing Act April 11, 1968 came only after a long journey. However, when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 04, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name has been closely associated with the fair housing legislation.



### **Housing Market Trends:**

The Bowling Green, KY housing market is currently experiencing a period of price increases and decreasing days on the market. In May 2025, the median home price rose by 2.5% year-over-year to \$282,000, while the median days on the market decreased by 35 days compared to the previous year. The number of homes sold also increased by 7.3% year-over-year, with 59 homes sold in May.

### **Key Trends:**

Median home prices in Bowling Green have risen by 2.5% year-over-year, reaching \$282,000 in May 2025. Homes are selling more quickly, with the median days on the market decreasing from 99 days to 64 days compared to last year. The number of homes sold has also increased by 7.3% year-over-year, indicating a more active market. Despite the positive trends, Realtor.com reports the market is currently considered a buyer's market, meaning that the supply of homes is slightly higher than the demand.

**Factors to Consider:**

*While many homes are well-established, new construction is also occurring in Bowling Green, particularly around the outskirts of the city. Despite increased sales, the available housing inventory has decreased significantly since 2018, with a particular shortage of homes priced under \$200,000, according to the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.*

*The rental market in Bowling Green is also experiencing growth, with a 4.7% year-over-year increase in average rent. In summary, Bowling Green's housing market is showing signs of a healthy recovery with increasing prices, faster sales, and a growing number of transactions. However, the market is still considered a buyer's market, and there are some inventory challenges, particularly for those seeking more affordable housing options.*



### Housing Assistance & Programs:

*In Bowling Green, Kentucky, several agencies and programs offer housing assistance to low-income individuals and families. The City of Bowling Green's Housing Division provides rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). Additionally, HANDS Inc., a non-profit, offers financial counseling and resources for homebuyers. Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) also provides various rental assistance programs, including tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA). For those experiencing homelessness, programs like Scholar House (for student parents) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH) are available.*

**Specific Programs and Resources:**

- *Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8):*

*The Bowling Green Housing Division, designated as a High Performing Agency, administers this program, providing rental assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families according to the City of Bowling Green.*

- *HANDS Inc.:*

*This non-profit offers financial counseling, including mortgage and homebuyer education classes, and is a HUD-approved credit counseling agency. They also operate the BG Scholar House, an apartment complex for student parents.*

- *Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC):*

*KHC provides rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher program and offers resources for Kentuckians in need. They also administer programs like TBRA and have resources for veterans and those experiencing homelessness.*

- Scholar House:

*This program, offered by KHC, provides housing, childcare, and supportive services to student parents pursuing higher education.*

- **Rapid Re-housing (RRH):**

*KHC's RRH program helps individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and transition to permanent housing.*

- **Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP):**

*KTAP provides financial and medical assistance to needy families with dependent children.*

- **Team Kentucky Homeowner Assistance Fund (TKHAF):**

*Qualified homeowners in Kentucky can apply for assistance with mortgage payments, property taxes, and other housing-related expenses.*

- **House on the Hill Inc.:**

*This organization provides affordable housing, food bank services, and support for families and individuals in need.*

- **211 Helpline:**

*Call 211 or visit [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) to find emergency rental assistance programs and other resources.*

### **How to Apply for Assistance:**

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program:** Contact the City of Bowling Green's Housing Division or [Kentucky Housing Corporation](#).
- **HANDS Inc.:** Visit their website or contact them directly.
- **KHC Programs:** Visit their website for information on various programs.
- **Scholar House:** Contact KHC or the Bowling Green Housing Division for information on Scholar House.
- **Rapid Re-housing:** Contact KHC or local homeless service providers.
- **TKHAF:** Apply online at [teamkyhaf.ky.gov](https://teamkyhaf.ky.gov).
- **211 Helpline:** Call 211 or visit [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) for information on emergency rental assistance.



- **Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP)**

*KTAP provides financial and medical assistance to needy dependent children in Kentucky and the parents or relatives with whom the ...*

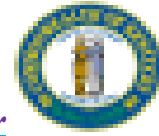


***Cabinet for Health and Family Services (.gov)***



**[House on the Hill Inc | Affordable Housing | Volunteer | Food ...](#)**

*[House on the Hill Inc | Affordable Housing | Volunteer | Food Bank | Homeless | Bowling Green KY. ... Household Sponsorship is one... House on the Hill Inc](#)*



- **[Helping Kentuckians Save - Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear](#)**

*[Qualified homeowners can visit \[teamkyhaf.ky.gov\]\(http://teamkyhaf.ky.gov\) to apply for up to \\$35,000 in assistance to help with delinquent mortgage payments... Kentucky.gov](#)*



- **[Get emergency rent assistance | USAGov](#)**

*[Contact 211 or search for state and local emergency rental assistance programs. Your state or local agency may refer you to a community resource.](#)*

### **Cost of Living:**

*The cost of living in Bowling Green, KY, is generally lower than both the state and national averages. Housing costs are significantly lower, while utilities and healthcare costs are slightly higher than the national average. Overall, Bowling Green offers a relatively affordable lifestyle compared to many other cities.*

*[Here's a more detailed breakdown:](#)*

### **Housing:**

- *[Bowling Green's housing expenses are significantly lower than the national average, with some sources reporting 28% lower.](#)*
- *[The median rent is around \\$1,008 per month.](#)*
- *[Real estate listings suggest home prices average around \\$399,043.](#)*

### **Utilities:**

- *[Utilities in Bowling Green are slightly higher than the national average, by about 8%.](#)*
- *[The average monthly electric bill for residential customers is about \\$178.](#)*

### **Other Expenses:**

- *[Grocery costs are lower than the national average.](#)*
- *[Healthcare costs are also lower than the national average.](#)*
- *[Transportation costs, including gas and bus fares, are lower than the national average.](#)*



- Goods and services costs are slightly lower than the national average.

### Overall:

- Bowling Green's cost of living is 13% lower than the national average.
- It's also 8% lower than the Kentucky state average.
- The city is known for its active, friendly community and quality school systems, further enhanced by its relatively low cost of living.
- Cost of Living in Bowling Green, Kentucky – Payscale

Cost of Living in Bowling Green, Kentucky ▼ 13% lower than national avg, ▼ 28% **HOUSING**, ▲ 8% **UTILITIES**, ▼ 7% **GROCERIES**

Bowling Green, Kentucky's cost of living is 13% lower than the national average. The cost of living in any area can vary based on factors such as your career, its average salary and the real estate market of that area.

### Cost of Living in Bowling Green, Kentucky by Expense Category

Overall Housing Utilities Groceries Transportation 020406080100120-13%-28%+8%-7%-22%National Average

### Housing, Utilities & Transportation

Bowling Green's housing expenses are 28% lower than the national average and the utility prices are 8% higher than the national average. Transportation expenses like bus fares and gas prices are 22% lower than the national average.



**MEDIAN HOME PRICE**  
\$371,057



**MEDIAN RENT**  
\$1,115 / month



**ENERGY BILL**  
\$223.58 / month



**PHONE BILL**  
\$210.74 / month



**GAS**  
\$2.52 / gallon

### Food & Grocery

Bowling Green has grocery prices that are 7% lower than the national average.



LOAF OF BREAD \$ 3.66



GALLON OF MILK \$ 4.36



CARTON OF EGGS \$ 3.30



BUNCH OF BANANAS \$ 0.69



HAMBURGER \$ 5.26

## Healthcare

*Healthcare in Bowling Green is 14% lower than the national average.*



**DOCTOR'S VISIT**  
\$124.78



**DENTIST VISIT**  
\$101.85



**OPTOMETRIST VISIT**  
\$113.10



**RX DRUG**  
\$17.83



## Low Income Housing in Bowling Green:

*For low-income housing options in Bowling Green, Kentucky, the Housing Authority of Bowling Green (HABG) is a primary resource. They administer public housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), providing rental assistance to eligible families. Additionally, Regency Park Apartments is an affordable apartment community with income-based eligibility. Other options include Northfield Acres Apartments, which accepts vouchers from the City of Bowling Green, and various other subsidized and market-rate housing options.*

### Key Resources and Programs:

- **Housing Authority of Bowling Green (HABG):**

*Offers public housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program. They also manage various housing projects like Fort Webb Manor, Summit View, and Angora Court.*

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8):**

*Provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals, administered by the Housing Division of the City of Bowling Green.*

- **Regency Park Apartments:**

*A federally subsidized apartment community with one, two, and three-bedroom units.*

- **Northfield Acres Apartments:**

*Low-income and project-based Section 8 apartments that accept vouchers from the City of Bowling Green.*

- **HANDS Inc.:**

*A HUD-approved credit counseling agency that also offers financial counseling and may have information on housing assistance.*

- **House on the Hill Inc.:**

*A non-profit working on building affordable single-family rental homes and providing other support services.*

- **Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC):**

*Offers resources like the Affordable Rental Directory and information on the Housing Choice Voucher Program.*

- **FindHelp.org:**

*Provides a list of resources for low-income housing, including those that help pay for housing.*

**How to Apply:**

- **For public housing and the Housing Choice Voucher Program:** *Contact the HABG or the Housing Division of the City of Bowling Green.*
- **For Regency Park Apartments:** *Contact the Gene B. Glick Company, which manages the property.*
- **For Northfield Acres Apartments:** *Inquire directly with the property management.*
- **For other subsidized or market-rate housing:** *Check resources like Apartments.com, United Way of Southern Kentucky, and FindHelp.org for listings and contact information.*

**Additional Tips:**

- **Gather necessary documentation:**

*Be prepared to provide information about your income, family size, and other relevant details when applying for assistance.*

- **Be aware of waiting lists:**

*Many subsidized housing programs have waiting lists, so it's important to apply early.*

- **Utilize available resources:**

*Explore options like the Affordable Rental Directory, financial counseling services, and non-profit organizations that offer housing assistance.*

- **United Way of Southern Kentucky Community Resources**

*Northfield Acres Apartments Low Income and Project-based Section 8 apartments. This property only accepts vouchers from the City of BG.*

**Where to File a Complaint of Discrimination/Contact Information:**

**Bowling Green Human Rights Commission**

**491 Double Springs Road**

**Bowling Green, KY 42101**

**Phone Number 270.782.7900**

**Email: [bghumanrightscom@gmail.com](mailto:bghumanrightscom@gmail.com)**

**[chiquitasbghrc@gmail.com](mailto:chiquitasbghrc@gmail.com)**

***If you or your agency, organization would like to have fair housing training please contact our office at the above address!***