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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission Launches eLearning Portal for Fair Housing Training**

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – May 3, 2016 – The Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission is pleased to announce the launch of its free eLearning Fair Housing Training.

In late 2015, the Commission began working with the City of Cedar Rapids IT Department to develop an eLearning training to provide quick and easy access to fair housing education. Housing providers can use this online portal to meet training requirements as part of settlement or conciliation agreements with the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission in lieu of an on-site training. The new training format also expands public outreach to additional audiences. The training requires Adobe Flash Player and can be accessed through the Commission’s website at [www.cedar-rapids.org/civilrights](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/civilrights). The training may not be compatible with mobile devices.

Topics covered in the eLearning training include:

- Protected classes covered under the local civil rights housing law;
- Activities that are prohibited under fair housing laws;
- The definition of disability within the context of the federal fair housing act;
- The difference between a “reasonable accommodation” and a “reasonable modification”;
- Tips for addressing reasonable accommodation and reasonable modification requests; and
- Service and companion animals and how they differ from pets.

Training participants have the opportunity to receive a certificate that can be printed upon successfully passing an online quiz at the end of the training. A survey is also included to allow citizens to provide feedback to the Commission for consideration for future updates. The Commission will continue to offer in-person training upon request to meet community needs.

For more information about the eLearning Fair Housing Training or other Commission trainings and programs, please call the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission at (319) 286-5036 or visit our website at [www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/CivilRights).