

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title Fiscal Resources	F		Subject # 226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

POLICY

Application

This policy shall apply to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.

1. Intent

It is the policy of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness that all persons, except those convicted, consistent with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those who represent them as public officials and employees.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' policy with respect to FOIA requests is to comply with state law in all respects and to respond to FOIA requests in a consistent, fair and even-handed manner regardless of who makes such a request.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness acknowledges that it has a legal obligation to disclose all nonexempt public records in its possession pursuant to an FOIA request. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness acknowledges that sometimes it is necessary to invoke the exemptions identified under FOIA in order to ensure the effective operation of the agency and to protect the privacy of individuals.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will protect the public's interest in disclosure, while balancing the requirement to withhold or redact portions of certain records. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' policy is to disclose public records consistent with and in compliance with state law.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness has established written procedures to implement FOIA. These procedures address how to submit written requests, deposit requirements, fees and avenues for challenge and appeal.

2. General Policy

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness, acting pursuant to the authority at MCL 15.236, designates The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness CEO as the FOIA Coordinator. The CEO is authorized to designate other The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness staff to act on their behalf and accept and process written requests for The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' public records and approve denials.

If a request for a public record is received by fax or email, the request is deemed to have been

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

received on the following business day. If a request is sent by email and delivered to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' spam or junk mail folder, the request is not deemed received until one day after the FOIA Coordinator first becomes aware of the request. The FOIA Coordinator shall note in the FOIA log both the date the request was delivered to the spam or junk mail folder and the date the FOIA Coordinator became aware of the request.

The FOIA Coordinator shall review their spam and junk mail folders on a regular basis, which shall be no less than once a month. The FOIA Coordinator shall work with The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Information Technology staff to develop administrative rules for handling spam and junk mail so as to protect The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness systems from computer attacks which may be imbedded in and electronic FOIA request.

3. Fees for Public Records

- 3.1. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness shall follow the Freedom of Information Act regarding fees of public records.
- 3.2. A specific fee for each FOIA request shall be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, not to exceed documented The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness cost.

4. Requesting a Public Record

- 4.1. No specific form to request a public record is required. However, the FOIA Coordinator may make available an FOIA Request Form for use by the public.
- 4.2. Requests to inspect or obtain copies of public records prepared, owned, used, possessed or retained by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness may be submitted on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' FOIA Request Form or in any other form of writing (letter, fax, email, etc.).
- 4.3. If a person makes a verbal, nonwritten request for information believed to be available on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' website, where practicable and to the best ability of the employee receiving the request, the requesting person shall be informed of the pertinent website address.
- 4.4. A request must sufficiently describe a public record so as to enable The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness personnel to identify and find the requested public record.
- 4.5. Written requests for public records may be submitted in person or by mail to any office. Requests may also be submitted electronically by fax and email. Upon their receipt,

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

requests for public records shall be promptly forwarded to the FOIA Coordinator for processing.

- 4.6. A person may request that public records be provided on non-paper physical media, emailed, or otherwise provided to them in digital form in lieu of paper copies. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will comply with the request only if it possesses the necessary technological capability to provide records in the requested non-paper physical media format.
- 4.7. A person may subscribe to future issues of public records that are created, issued or disseminated by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness on a regular basis. A subscription is valid for up to 6 months and may be renewed by the subscriber.
- 4.8. A person serving a sentence of imprisonment in a local, state or federal correctional facility is not entitled to submit a request for a public record, The FOIA Coordinator will deny all such requests.

5. Processing a Request

- 5.1. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the person making the request, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will issue a response within 5 business days of receipt of an FOIA request. If a request is received by fax, email or other electronic transmission, the request is deemed to have been received on the following business day.
- 5.2. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will respond to a request in one of the following ways:
 - 5.2.1. Grant the request.
 - 5.2.2. Issue a written notice denying the request.
 - 5.2.3. Grant the request in part and issue a written notice denying in part the request.
 - 5.2.4. Issue a notice that due to the nature of the request, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness needs an additional 10 business days to respond for a total of no more than 15 business days. Only one such extension is permitted.
 - 5.2.5. Issue a written notice indicating that the public record requested is available at no charge on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' website.
- 5.3. When a request is granted, or granted in part, the FOIA Coordinator will require that

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

payment be made in full for the allowable fees associated with responding to the request before the public records is made available.

- 5.3.1. The FOIA Coordinator shall provide a detailed itemization of the allowable costs incurred to process the request to the person making the request.
- 5.3.2. A copy of these FOIA procedures will be provided to the requestor free of charge with the response to a written request for public records, provided however, that because these FOIA procedures are maintained on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' website, a link to the FOIA procedures will be provided in lieu of providing paper copies of these documents.
- 5.3.3. If the cost of processing an FOIA request is \$50 or less, the requester will be notified of the amount due and where the documents can be obtained.
- 5.3.4. If the cost of processing an FOIA request is expected to exceed \$50 based on good faith calculation, or if the requestor has not paid in full for a previously granted request, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will require a good-faith deposit pursuant to section 6 of this procedure on Fee Deposits before processing the request.
- 5.3.5. In making the request for a good-faith deposit, the FOIA Coordinator shall provide the requestor with a detailed itemization of the allowable costs estimated to be incurred by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to process the request and also provide a best-efforts estimate of a time frame it will take The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to provide the records to the requestor. The best-efforts estimate shall be nonbinding on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness but will be made in good faith and will strive to be reasonably accurate, given the nature of the request in the particular instance, so as to provide the requested records in a manner based on the public policy expressed by policy F-226.
- 5.4. When a request is denied or denied in part, the FOIA Coordinator will issue a Notice of Denial which shall provide in the applicable circumstance:
 - 5.4.1. An explanation as to why a requested public record is exempt from disclosure: or
 - 5.4.2. A certificate that the requested record does not exist under the name or description provided by the requestor, or another name reasonably known by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness; or

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

5.4.3. An explanation or description of the public records or information within a public record that is separated or deleted from the public record; and

5.4.4. An explanation of the person's right to submit an appeal of the denial to either The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' Board of Directors or seek judicial review in the Ionia County Circuit Court; and

5.4.5. An explanation of the right to receive attorneys' fees, cost and disbursements as well as actual or compensatory damages and punitive damages of \$1,000 should they prevail in Circuit Court.

5.4.6. The Notice of Denial shall be signed by the FOIA Coordinator.

5.5. If a request does not sufficiently describe a public record, the FOIA Coordinator may, in lieu of issuing a Notice of Denial indicating that the request is deficient, seek clarification or amendment of the request by the person making the request. Any clarification or amendment will be considered a new request subject to the timelines described in this section.

5.6. Requests to inspect public records: The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness shall provide reasonable facilities and opportunities for persons to examine and inspect public records during normal business hours. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to promulgate rules regulating the manner in which records may be reviewed so as to protect The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness records from loss, alteration, mutilation or destruction and to prevent excessive interference with normal The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness operations.

5.7. Requests for certified copies: The FOIA Coordinator shall, upon written request, furnish a certified copy of a public record at no additional cost to the person requesting the public record.

6. Fee Deposits

6.1. If the fee estimate is expected to exceed \$50 based on a good-faith calculation, the requester will be asked to provide a deposit not exceeding one-half of the total estimated fee.

6.2. If a request for public records is from a person who has not paid The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness in full for copies of public records made in fulfillment of a previously granted written request, the FOIA Coordinator will require a deposit of 100% of the estimated processing fee before beginning to search for a public record for any subsequent written request by that person when all of the following conditions exist:

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title Fiscal Resources	F		Subject # 226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

- 6.2.1. The final fee for the prior written request is not more than 105% of the estimated fee; and
- 6.2.2. The public records made available contained the information sought in the prior written request and remain in The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' possession; and
- 6.2.3. The public records were made available to the individual, subject to payment, within the timeframe estimated by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to provide the records; and
- 6.2.4. Ninety (90) days have passed since the FOIA Coordinator notified the individual in writing that the public records were available for pickup or mailing; and
- 6.2.5. The individual is unable to show proof of prior payment to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness; and
- 6.2.6. The FOIA Coordinator has calculated a detailed itemization that is the basis for the current written request's increased estimated fee deposit.
- 6.3. The FOIA Coordinator will not require an increased estimated fee deposit if any of the following apply:
 - 6.3.1. The person making the request is able to show proof of prior payment in full to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness; or
 - 6.3.2. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness is subsequently paid in full for the applicable prior written request; or
 - 6.3.3. Three hundred sixty five (365) days have passed since the person made the request for which full payment was not remitted to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.

7. Calculation of Fees

- 7.1. A fee may not be charged for the labor cost of copying/duplication.
- 7.2. A fee will **not** be charged for the labor cost of search, examination, review and the deletion and separation of exempt from nonexempt information **unless** failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and The Right

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness specifically identifies the nature of the unreasonably high costs.

- 7.3. Costs for the search, examination, review, and deletion and separation of nonexempt information are “unreasonably high” when they are excessive and beyond the normal or usual amount for those services compared to the costs of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness’ usual FOIA requests, not compared to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness’ operating budget.
- 7.4. The following factors shall be used to determine an unreasonably high cost to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness:
 - 7.4.1. Volume of the public record requested.
 - 7.4.2. Amount of time spent to search for, examine, review and separate exempt from nonexempt information in the record requested.
 - 7.4.3. Whether the public records are from more than one The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness department or whether various The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness offices are necessary to respond to the request.
 - 7.4.4. The available staffing to respond to the request.
 - 7.4.5. Any other similar factors identified by the FOIA Coordinator in responding to the particular request.
- 7.5. The Michigan FOIA statute permits The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to charge for the following costs associated with processing a request:
 - 7.5.1. Labor costs associated with copying or duplication which includes making paper copies, making digital copies, or transferring digital public records to non-paper physical media or through the Internet.
 - 7.5.2. Labor costs associated with searching for, locating and examining a requested public record, when failure to charge a fee will result in unreasonably high costs to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.
 - 7.5.3. Labor costs associated with a review of a record to separate and delete information exempt from disclosure when failure to charge a fee will result in unreasonably high costs to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.
 - 7.5.4. The costs of copying or duplication, not including labor, of paper copies of public

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

records. This may include the cost for copies of records already on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' website if persons ask for The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to make copies.

- 7.5.5. The cost of computer discs, flash drives or other digital or similar media when the requestor asks for records in non-paper physical media. This may include the cost for copies of records already on The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' website if persons ask for The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to make copies.
- 7.5.6. The cost to mail or send a public record to a requestor.
- 7.6. Labor costs will be calculated based on the following requirements:
 - 7.6.1. All labor costs will be estimated and charged in 15-minute increments, with all partial time increments rounded down. If the time involved is less than 15 minutes, there will be no charge. Labor costs will be charged at the hourly rate of the Lowest paid The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness employee capable of doing the work in the specific fee category, regardless of who actually performs the work.
 - 7.6.2. Labor costs will also include a charge to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits.
 - 7.6.3. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness may add up to 50% to the applicable labor charge amount to cover or partially cover the cost of fringe benefits, but in no case may it exceed the actual cost of fringe benefits.
 - 7.6.4. Overtime wages will not be included in labor costs unless agreed to by the requestor; overtime costs will not be used to calculate fringe benefit cost.
 - 7.6.5. Contacted labor costs will be charged at the hourly rate of \$48.90 (6 times the state minimum hourly wage).
- 7.7. The cost to provide records on non-paper physical media when so requested will be based on the following requirements:
 - 7.7.1. Computer discs, flash drives or other digital or similar media will be at the actual and most reasonably economical cost for the non-paper media.
 - 7.7.2. The cost will only be assessed if The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness has the technological capability necessary to provide the public record

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

in the requested non-paper physical media format.

- 7.7.3. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will procure any non-paper media and will not accept media from the requestor in order to ensure integrity of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' technology infrastructure.
- 7.8. The cost to provide paper copies of records will be based on the following requirements:
 - 7.8.1. Paper copies of public records made on standard letter (8x11) or legal (8x14) sized paper will not exceed \$0.10 per sheet of paper. Copies of non-standard sized sheets of paper will reflect the actual cost of reproduction.
 - 7.8.2. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness will provide records using double-sided printing if it is cost-saving and available.
- 7.9. The cost to mail records to a requester will be based on the following requirements:
 - 7.9.1. The actual cost to mail public records using a reasonably economical and justified means.
 - 7.9.2. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness may charge for the least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation.
 - 7.9.3. No cost will be made for expedited shipping or insurance unless specified by the requester.
- 7.10. If the FOIA Coordinator does not respond to a written request in a timely manner, The Right Door must reduce the labor costs by 5% for each day The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness exceeds the time permitted under FOIA up to 50% maximum reduction if any of the following applies:
 - 7.10.1. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' late response was willful and intentional, or
 - 7.10.2. The written request conveyed a request for information within the first 250 words of the body of a letter facsimile, email or email attachment, or
 - 7.10.3. The written request included words, characters or abbreviations for "freedom of information", "information", "FOIA", "copy" or a recognizable misspelling of such, or legal code reference to MCL 15.231, et seq or 1876 Public Act 442 on the front of an envelope or in the subject line of an email, letter or facsimile cover page.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title Fiscal Resources	F		Subject # 226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

8. Waiver of Fees

The cost of the search for and copying of a public record may be waived or reduced if, in the sole judgment of the FOIA Coordinator, a waiver or reduced fee is in the public interest because it can be considered as primarily benefitting the general public. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness may identify specific records or types of records it deems should be made available for no charge or at a reduced cost.

9. Discounted Fees

9.1. Indigence

9.1.1. The FOIA Coordinator will discount the first \$20 of the processing fee for a request if the person requesting a public record submits an affidavit stating that they are:

9.1.1.1. Indigent and receiving specific public assistance, or

9.1.1.2. If not receiving public assistance, stating facts demonstrating and inability to pay because of indigence.

9.1.2. An individual is not eligible to receive the waiver if:

9.1.2.1. The requester has previously received discounted copies of public records from The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness twice during the calendar year, or

9.1.2.2. The requester requests information in connection with other persons who are offering or providing payment to make the request.

9.1.3. An affidavit is a sworn statement. The FOIA Coordinator may make a Fee Waiver Affidavit Form available for use by the public.

9.2. Nonprofit organization advocating for developmentally disabled or mentally ill individuals.

9.2.1. The FOIA Coordinator will discount the first \$20 of the processing fee for a request from a nonprofit organization formally designated by the state to carry out activities under subtitle C of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights of 2000, Public Law 106-402, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals With Mental Illness Act, Public Law 99-319, or

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title Fiscal Resources	F		Subject # 226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

their successors, if the request meets all of the following requirements:

- 9.2.1.1. It is made directly on behalf of the organization or its clients.
- 9.2.1.2. It is made for a reason wholly consistent with the mission and provisions of those laws under section 931 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 331.1931.
- 9.2.1.3. It is accompanied by documentation of its designation by the state, if requested by the public body.

10. Appeal of a Denial of a Public Record

- 10.1. When a requester believes that all of a portion of the public record has not been disclosed or has been improperly exempted from disclosure, they may appeal to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors by filing an appeal of the denial with The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.
- 10.2. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word “appeal”, and identify the reasons the requester is seeking a reversal of the denial. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness FOIA Appeal Form (To Appeal a Denial of Records) may be used.
- 10.3. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors is not considered to have received a written appeal until the first regularly scheduled The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors meeting following submission of the written appeal.
- 10.4. Within 10 business days of receiving the appeal, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors will respond in writing by:
 - 10.4.1. Reversing the disclosure denial; or
 - 10.4.2. Upholding the disclosure denial; or
 - 10.4.3. Reversing the disclosure denial in part and uphold the disclosure denial in part; or
 - 10.4.4. Under unusual circumstances, issuing a notice extending for not more than 10 business days the period during which The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors shall respond to the written appeal. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors shall not issue more than

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

one notice of extension for a specific written appeal.

- 10.5. If The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors fails to respond to a written appeal or if The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors upholds all or a portion of the disclosure denial that is the subject of the written appeal, the requesting person may seek judicial review of the nondisclosure by commencing a civil action in Circuit Court.
- 10.6. Whether or not a requester submitted an appeal of a denial to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board, the person may file a civil action in the Ionia County Circuit Court within 180 days after The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors' final determination to deny the request.
- 10.7. If a court determines a public record is not exempt from disclosure, it shall order The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to cease withholding or to produce all or a portion of a public record wrongfully withheld, regardless of the location of the public record. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.
- 10.8. If the requester asserting the right to inspect, copy or receive a copy of all or a portion of a public record prevails in such an action, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements. If the requester or The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness prevails in part, the court may, in its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements to each party.
- 10.9. If the court determines that The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness has arbitrarily and capriciously violated this act by refusal or delay in disclosing or providing copies of a public record, the court shall order The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to pay a civil fine of \$1000, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court shall award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$1000 to the person seeking the right to inspect or receive a copy of the public record. The damages shall not be assessed against an individual but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public record as part of its public function.

11. Appeal of an Excessive FOIA Processing Fee

- 11.1. "Fee" means the total fee or any component of the total fee calculated under section 4 of the FOIA, including any deposit.

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

- 11.2. If a requester believes that a fee charged by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to process an FOIA request exceeds the amount permitted by state law or under this policy, they must file appeal to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors by submitting a written appeal for a fee reduction to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness.
- 11.3. The appeal must be in writing, specifically state the word “appeal” and identify how the required fee exceeds the amount permitted.
- 11.4. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors is not considered to have received a written appeal until the first regularly scheduled The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors meeting following the submission of the written appeal.
- 11.5. Within 10 business days after receiving the appeal, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors will respond by:
 - 11.5.1. Waiving the fee; or
 - 11.5.2. Reducing the fee and issuing a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the remaining fee; or
 - 11.5.3. Upholding the fee and issuing a written determination indicating the specific basis that supports the required fee; or
 - 11.5.4. Issuing a notice detailing the reason or reasons for extending, for not more than 10 business days, the period during which The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors will respond to the written appeal. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors shall not issue more than one notice of extension for a particular written appeal.
- 11.6. When The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors reduces or upholds the fee, the determination must include a certification form from The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors that the statements in the determination are accurate and that the reduced fee amount complies with its publicly available procedures and guidelines in Section 4 of the FOIA.
- 11.7. Within 45 days after receiving the notice of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board’s determination of an appeal, the requesting person may commence a civil action in Ionia County Circuit Court for a fee reduction.
- 11.8. If a civil action is commenced against The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title	F		Subject #
Fiscal Resources			226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10;6/27/11; 5/29/12;5/28/13; 8/25/14;1/25/16; 3/28/16;1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

for an excessive fee, The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness is not obligated to complete the processing of the written request for the public record at issue until the court resolves the fee dispute.

11.9. An action shall not be filed in circuit court unless one of the following applies:

11.9.1. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness does not provide for appeals of fees,

11.9.2. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors failed to respond to a written appeal as required, or

11.9.3. The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors issued a determination to a written appeal.

11.10. If a court determines that The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness required a fee that exceeds the amount permitted under its publicly available procedures or Section 4 of the FOIA, the court shall reduce the fee to a permissible amount. Failure to comply with an order of the court may be punished as contempt of court.

11.11. If the requesting person prevails in court by receiving a reduction of 50% or more of the total fee, the court may, at its discretion, award all or an appropriate portion of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements. The award shall be assessed against the public body liable for damages.

11.12. If the court determines that The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness has arbitrarily and capriciously violated the FOIA by charging an excessive fee, the court shall order The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness to pay a civil fine of \$500, which shall be deposited into the general fund of the state treasury. The court may also award, in addition to any actual or compensatory damages, punitive damages in the amount of \$500 to the person seeking the fee reduction. The fine and any damages shall not be assessed against an individual but shall be assessed against the next succeeding public body that is not an individual and that kept or maintained the public records as part of its public function.

12. Conflict with Prior FOIA Policies and Procedures; Effective Date

12.1. To the extent that these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines conflict with previous FOIA policies promulgated by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors or The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Administration, these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines are controlling. To the extent that any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator subsequent to the adoption of this resolution

The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness

Chapter Title Fiscal Resources	F		Subject # 226
Subject Title Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	Adopted 5/24/10	Last Revised 3/28/22	Reviewed 5/24/10; 6/27/11; 5/29/12; 5/28/13; 8/25/14; 1/25/16; 3/28/16; 1/29/18; 3/18/19; 3/28/22; 2/28/23; 2/26/24; 2/24/25

is found to be in conflict with any previous policy promulgated by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors or The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Administration, the administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator is controlling.

- 12.2. To the extent that any of these FOIA Procedures and Guidelines or any administrative rule promulgated by the FOIA Coordinator pertaining to the release of public records is found to be in conflict with any State statute, the applicable statute shall control. The FOIA Coordinator is authorized to modify this policy and all previous policies adopted by The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors or The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Administration, and to adopt such administrative rules as they may deem necessary, to facilitate the legal review and processing of requests for public records made pursuant to the Michigan's FOIA statute, provided that such modifications and rules are consistent with State law. The FOIA Coordinator shall inform The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness Board of Directors of any changes to these Policies and Guidelines.

13. Appendix of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness' FOIA Forms

- 13.1. Request for Public Records Form
- 13.2. Notice of Extended Response Time Form
- 13.3. Notice of Denial Form
- 13.4. Detailed Cost Itemization Form
- 13.5. Appeal of Denial of Records Form
- 13.6. Appeal of Excess Fee Form

References

Freedom of Information Act 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 et seq.

Nancy Patera, Board Chairperson	Date		