



October 18, 2011

TO: Eligible Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Housing Assistance Grant Program Applicants

FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development

SUBJECT: FY 2011 Housing Assistance Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the Office of Community Development (OCD) expects to distribute approximately \$5 million of Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) dollars through the Housing Assistance Grant Program (Housing Program). The application submission deadline is December 14, 2011 at 5 p.m.

**Background**

Through the program, eligible nonprofit organizations can apply for competitive funding to undertake emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications and down payment assistance and homebuyer counseling activities.

Exception: FY 2010 Housing Program award recipients that received a two-year grant are not eligible to apply unless a waiver is requested and received. A waiver may be requested if: the agency has recently expanded an existing funded housing program after January 1, 2011; and/or the agency is planning to expand an existing funded housing program prior to December 31, 2012. Agencies can also request a waiver to address other factors which place future operations in jeopardy. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and received by OCD (Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development, Ohio Department of Development, 77 South High Street-24th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215) on or before November 7, 2011 at 5 p.m.

**Eligible Categories**

Applicants may request Housing Program funds for each eligible category for the two-year period beginning March 1, 2012 and ending February 28, 2013. The maximum amount that applicants may request per category is listed below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Award</u>	<u>Grant Period</u>
Emergency Home Repair/Handicapped Accessibility Modifications	\$500,000	2 years
Down Payment Assistance/Homebuyer Counseling	\$150,000	2 years

Exception: Applicants can request a waiver to exceed the \$500,000 cap for emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications. However, these requests are limited to agencies with large urban or multi-county service areas. Requests must include statistics, such as local housing needs and program waiting lists demonstrating the need to exceed the cap for emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and received by OCD (Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development, Ohio Department of Development, 77 South High Street-24th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215) on or before November 7, 2011 by 5 p.m.

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### **Program Funding Cycle**

The program funding cycle will begin on March 1, 2012 provided sufficient Ohio Housing Trust funds are available. Applicants should apply for a two-year grant; however, OCD reserves the right to award either a one-year or a two-year grant to successful applicants based on the application's review score or other factors. In addition, OCD reserves the right to award grants at less than the requested amount.

### **Additional Program Information**

Additional information regarding the FY 2011 Housing Program is available in the ***FY 2011 Ohio Consolidated Plan***, which is posted on <http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ohcp/publications.htm>, including the program's rating criteria, threshold requirements, etc.

### **Application**

The FY 2011 Housing Program application and instructions will be posted online on or about October 20, 2011 at <http://development.ohio.gov/Community/ohcp/ohcpapplications.htm>.

### **Award Announcements**

OCD will make FY 2011 Housing Program award announcements in February 2012, pending Controlling Board approval. Award amounts will be posted on OCD's web site at <http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ohcp/WhatsNew.htm>.

### **Implementation Training**

OCD will provide information regarding the grant implementation training for new grantees and interested current grantees subsequent to program award announcements.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding the FY 2011 Housing Program should be directed to the OCD Supportive Housing Section staff at (614) 466-2285.

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