Ohio | Development Services Agency

Program Year 2015
Ohio Consolidated Plan
Annual Action Plan

February 2015

DRAFT

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Introduction

The state of Ohio is required annually to prepare and submit an Annual Action Plan as part of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), pursuant to regulations at 24 CFR 91.320, to access certain types of HUD funds. The purpose of the Annual Action Plan is to describe the programs and activities that the Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development (OCD) will administer with Federal Program Year 2015 HUD and State Fiscal Year 2016 awarded funds. The program year for PY 2015 funded activities begins on July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2016. The Annual Action Plan must cover four HUD programs; including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. Funding from these programs is awarded to the state by HUD, and distributed by the OCD. OCD has established a variety of programs for distributing the HUD funds, along with state funds. Each of the programs and activities that are proposed for PY 2015 are described in detail in the Consolidated Plan, along with the proposed funding amounts.

PY 2015 Citizen Participation and Consultation Process

OCD completed a number of activities designed to obtain comments, perspectives, and citizen opinions to prepare the PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan. Notification of all public hearings and meetings was made at least 10 days in advance of the meetings through newsletters, direct mail and posting on OCD's website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm. Records of these actions and documentation are available for review at the OCD office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 77 South High Street, 26th floor in Columbus, Ohio. All facilities and meeting times selected as part of the citizen participation process were chosen to accommodate persons with disabilities. The specific citizen participation activities are described as follows.

1. Public Hearing On Needs

OCD held a public hearing on needs issues on September 17, 2014, in Room 1932 on the 19th Floor of the Riffe Center, in Columbus. OCD mailed Notification of the Public Hearing on Needs information to approximately 1,000 local communities, organizations and agencies throughout the state at least 30 days in advance. DSA also published the notification on OCD's website. The notification summarized the state's planning process for the Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan, and solicited participation in OCD's Program Advisory Committee meetings. OCD accepted written comments on needs issues for 15 days prior to the meeting (from September 2, 2014 to September 17, 2014). Comments made at the Public Hearing on Needs, or received by OCD prior to the conclusion of the hearing, were distributed to the advisory committee members for consideration during the planning process.

2. Program Advisory Committees

OCD held eight Program Advisory Committees on October 14 and 15, 2014. At least 10 members comprised the Program Advisory Committees, including local officials, program administrators, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies, organizations and individuals familiar with OCD's programs and/or the Housing Development Assistance Program administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). OCD solicited participation on the Program Advisory Committees by directly mailing information to all local communities, organizations and persons on the OCD mailing list, which includes approximately 900 communities and organizations. The mailing also provided notification about the Public Hearing on Needs. The following Program Advisory Committee meetings were held:

- Community Development Program Advisory Committee
- Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program Advisory Committee
- Fair Housing/New Horizons Program Advisory Committee

- Economic Development Program Advisory Committee
- Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program Advisory Committee
- Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) Advisory Committee
- Homeless Crisis Response Program / Housing Assistance Grant Program Advisory Committee
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program Advisory Committee

3. Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

The PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee will meet on February 10, 2015, to review the Draft PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan. The Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan Advisory Committee is comprised of 21 persons who represent a variety of public and private organizations that are involved with programs and issues related to housing and community development.

4. Notification of Public Comment Period and Distribution of Plan

On February 27, 2015, OCD will send notification to approximately 900 communities, agencies and organizations, informing them that the Draft PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan and Executive Summary are available on OCD's website for review and comment at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm. This notification will also announce the beginning of the mandatory 30-day public comment period on the draft plan, including a public hearing on March 12, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at 77 South High Street, Room 1960, Columbus, Ohio. All comments received will be included in the Draft PY 2015 Ohio Annual Action Plan.

Submission to HUD

The final Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan document will be submitted via Integrated Disbursement Information and Information Systems (IDIS) to HUD for a 45-day review period on or before May 13, 2015. Posting notification and availability of the final PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan will be sent to approximately 900 communities, agencies and organizations throughout the state.

Resources Expected to be Made Available

Federal Resources

The federal resources available to the state from HUD for PY 2015 are indicated below. OCD and OHFA have established a variety of programs through which these funds will be distributed. Table 4, columns 1-4, show how these federal funding sources will be distributed among the various OCD and OHFA programs. Following Table 4, the guidelines for each of the programs are described in detail.

$ 40,596,413	Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
$ 15,980,633	HOME Investment Partnerships Program
$ 5,750,996	Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program
$ 1,266,159	Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program
$ 63,594,201	Total Estimated Federal PY 2015 Funds

OCD and OHFA have established several policies on how these funds can be used. These policies are listed below for each of the four respective HUD funding sources.

CDBG Program:

The following policies will apply to the PY 2015 CDBG funds:

1. The amount of administrative funds may be slightly higher, if the base for the state's administrative cap includes program income. Also, the amount for administration shown on Table 4 covers only OCD general administration. Grantees may be awarded additional administrative funds for local administrative costs associated with CDBG programs. Also, pursuant to guidelines issued by HUD, CDBG administrative funds will be used for HOME Program administrative costs incurred by local HOME grantees. OCD and local CDBG program administration cannot exceed 20 percent of the total CDBG allocation.

2. The funds budgeted for the Training and Technical Assistance Program is from the 1 percent allowance for technical assistance. CDBG funds will be available for the Training and Technical Assistance Program.

3. The state will distribute recaptured funds for the same type of program activities from which the recaptured funds are derived and for which they were originally programmed.

4. Funds set aside for the Economic Development Program which are not substantially committed to specific projects by April 30, 2015, will be transferred to the appropriate program, at OCD's discretion, in order to meet timeliness requirements.

In the event that the total PY 2015 CDBG allocation to the state will be either less or more than the amount the State expects to receive, OCD will allocate available state funds proportionately, based on the PY 2015 proposed budget amounts as shown on Table 4, page 10.

HOME Program:

The following policies will apply to the PY 2015 HOME funds:

1. The 10 percent HOME administrative funds will be used for both the ODSA and HOME Program administrative costs incurred by state-funded HOME grantees. (OCD will distribute approximately 60 percent of these administrative funds to state recipients and other local grantees.)

2. In the event that the total PY 2015 HOME allocation to the state will be either less or more than the amount that the State expects to receive, OCD will allocate funds proportionately, based on the PY 2015 proposed budget amounts, as follows:

Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program	65 percent
Housing Development Assistance Program	21 percent
CHDO Competitive Operating Grant Program	4 percent
Administration	10 percent

ESG Program:

The following policies will apply to the PY 2015 ESG funds:

1. The ESG Program allocations are based on the assumption that the state will receive approximately $5.7 million in PY 2015 McKinney Emergency Solutions Grant Program funds from HUD.

2. Up to 5 percent of federal ESG funds will be used for administrative costs, of that, 60 percent goes to grant recipients and 40 percent stays with OCD.

HOPWA Program:

The following policies will apply to the PY 2015 HOPWA funds:

Of the amount allocated for the HOPWA Program, about $4,000 will be used for OCD general administration; local grantees may use additional funds for local HOPWA Program general administration.

Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

The state of Ohio expects to receive $24 million in tax credits through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program in the upcoming year. The tax credits can be used to generate equity that must be used to partially or fully finance developing affordable rental housing projects. The Ohio Housing Credits are administered through the OHFA, and often used in conjunction with federal HOME or Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) gap funding and private dollars to finance affordable rental housing projects.

Other Resources

Several OCD programs will combine federal funds with OHTF, as indicated on Table 4. Final OHTF allocations must be approved by the OHTF Advisory Committee and grant awards are contingent on approval by the state Controlling Board. Additionally, OCD expects several federal, state and private resources to be made available during PY 2015 that local communities and nonprofit organizations used in the past to fund housing- and community development-related activities. It would be extremely difficult to state the exact funding amounts from these sources. Instead, a series of tables are included that indicate the sources of other funds expected to be made available for the three major program areas covered in the Consolidated Plan. Specifically, Table 1 shows the sources of other funds expected to be made available for housing activities, while Table 2 and Table 3 show resources for economic development and community development programs, respectively.

Matching Funds

Of the four programs covered in the Annual Action Plan, three require matching funds. The HOME Program requires a 25 percent match. For every dollar of HOME funds expended, the state must provide $0.25 of matching funds. HOME match in PY 2015 will be covered by OHTF dollars that are used in conjunction with projects funded through the HDAP.

Another program that requires matching funds is the ESG Program. For every dollar of ESG funds expended, the state must provide $1 of matching funds. This matching requirement will be met in PY 2015 by requiring ESG Program applicants to commit matching funds in their applications for funding. No application will be approved that does not contain sufficient matching funds.

Finally, OCD CDBG administration funds expended in excess of $100,000 must be matched on a one-to-one basis using state funds.

Table 1: Additional Resources for Housing, Homeless and Supportive Services*

		Beneficiary Type					Activity Type							
Agency	Program	Owner	Home-buyer	Renter	Home-less	Special Needs(1)	Acquire Only	New Const.	Rehabili-tation	Weatheriza-tion/Repair	Transi-tional Hsg.	Homeless Prevention	Rental Asst.	Support Services
OHFA	Housing Development Loan Program	x		x			x	x	x					
Ohio Dept. of Aging	Resident Service Coordinator Program			x		x								x
OHFA	Housing Credit Program			x				x	x		x			
OHFA	Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program		x				x							
OHFA	Mortgage Credit Certificate Program		x				x							
OCA	Home Weatherization	x		x						x				
OCA	Home Energy Assistance Program	x		x										x
ODA	Home Repair and Modification Program	x							x					
OCS	Community Services Block Grant				x							x		x
United Way					x							x		x
FEMA	Emergency Food and Shelter Program				x							x		
ODE	Education of Homeless Youths				x							x		x
ODJFS	Title 20				x									x

(1) Special Needs Persons are non-homeless, and may include frail elderly persons, persons with AIDS, and disabled families.

Note: Resources include funds provided through state and federal agencies and foundations.

The non-OCD funds listed have been significantly utilized by OCD grantees. There are funds utilized by OCD grantees that are not listed on this matrix.

*Please refer to the Listing of Acronyms on page 154

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Table 1: Additional Resources for Housing, Homeless and Supportive Services (continued)*

		Beneficiary Type					Activity Type							
Agency	Program	Owner	Home-buyer	Renter	Home-less	Special Needs(1)	Acquire Only	New Const.	Rehabili-tation	Weatheriza-tion/Repair	Transi-tional Hsg.	Homeless Prevention	Rental Asst.	Support Services
ODODD	Community Capital Assistance Grants				x	x	x		x			x		
ODODD	Supported Living Program				x	x						x	x	x
ODODD	Purchase of Service				x	x						x		x
ODMHAS	Community Capital Funding Program					x	x	x						
ODMHAS	Residential Services Program				x	x						x		x
ODMH	PATH Program				x	x						x		x
CDFF	Linked Deposit Program	x		x			x	x	x					
CDFF	Pre-Development Program	x		x			x	x	x					
USDARD	Section 502 Single Family Housing - Direct		x				x	x						
USDARD	Guaranteed Rural Housing		x				x	x						
USDARD	Section 504 Rural Housing Loans and Grants	x							x					
USDARD	Section 515 Rural Rental Housing			x				x	x					
USDARD	Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants	x							x					
Ohio Dept. of Health	Ryan White					x						x		x
ODADAS	HUD Homeless Assistance HUD Homeless Assistance 1996 Continuum of Care					x								x

(1) Special Needs Persons are non-homeless, and may include frail elderly persons, persons with AIDS, and disabled families.

Note: Resources include funds provided through state and federal agencies and foundations.

The non-OCD funds listed have been significantly utilized by OCD grantees. There are funds utilized by OCD grantees that are not listed on this matrix.

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Table 2: Additional Resources for Economic Development*

Agency	Program	Geography	Machinery & Equipment	Activity Type: New Construction	Activity Type: Rehabil-itation	Activity Type: Infra-structure	Activity Type: Training & Tech. Support	Financing Type: Tax Credit / Abatement	Financing Type: Direct Assistance
ODSA	Road Work Development Fund - 629 Account	Statewide				x			
ODSA	Enterprise Zones	State Enterprise Zones						x	
ODSA	166 Loan Program	Statewide	x	x	x				x
ODSA	166 Regional Loan Program	Statewide	x	x	x				x
ODSA	Business Development - 412 Program	Statewide	x			x			x
ODSA	Ohio Enterprise Bond Fund	Statewide	x	x	x				x
OSDC	Small Business Admin. 504 Loan Program	Statewide	x	x	x				x
OSDC	Small Business Admin. 7(A) Loan Guaranty	Statewide	x	X	x				x
EDA	Economic Development Grant Programs	Statewide		x	x	x	x		x
GOA	Appalachia Regional Commission	Appalachian Counties		x	x	x	x		x
USDA RD	Rural Business Enterprise Grants	Rural Areas/Cities < 50,000	x	x		x	x		x
USDA RD	Business & Industrial Guaranteed Loans	Rural Areas/Cities < 50,000	x						x
USDA RD	Intermediary Relending Program	Rural Areas < 25,000	x	x	x	x	x		x
OWDA	Issue 2	Statewide				x			x
ODOT	Various Programs	Statewide				x			x

(1) Note: There is a maximum amount of funds that may be used for Training & Technical Support activities.

Note: Resources include funds provided through federal agencies and other state agencies.

The non-OCD funds listed have been significantly utilized by OCD grantees. There are funds utilized by OCD grantees that are not listed on this matrix.

*Please refer to the Listing of Acronyms on page 154

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Table 3: Additional Resources for Community Development*

Agency*	Program	Eligible Geographic Area	Activity Type						
			Public Facilities				Community Facilities	Private Rehabi-litation	Public Services
			Streets	Water & Sewer	Flood & Drainage	Other			
USDARD	Community Facility Guaranteed Loans	Small Towns/Rural Areas	x			x	x		
USDARD	Community Facility Loans	Small Towns/Rural Areas	x			x	x		
USDARD	Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants	Small Towns/Rural Areas		x					
USDARD	Solid Waste Management Grants	Small Towns/Rural Areas		x					
USDARD	Water & Waste Disposal	Small Towns/Rural Areas		x					
OWDA & OEPA	Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund	Statewide		x		x			
OWDA	Construction Loans	Statewide		x					
OWDA	Planning Loans	Statewide		x					
OWDA & OEPA	OWDA Two Percent Hardship Drinking Water Loans	Statewide		x					
OEPA	Municipal Wastewater Assistance Program	Statewide		x					
ODNR	Grant and Loan Programs	Statewide		x	x	x			x
OPWC	State Capital Improvements Program (Issue 2)	Statewide	x	x	x	x			
OPWC	Local Transportation Improvements Program (Issue 2)	Statewide	x						
GOA	Appalachia Regional Commission	Appalachian Counties	x	x	x	x	x		x
ODOT	Various Programs	Statewide	x						

Note: Resources include funds provided through federal agencies and other state agencies.

The non-OCD funds listed have been significantly utilized by OCD grantees. There are funds utilized by OCD grantees that are not listed on this matrix.

*Please refer to the Listing of Acronyms on page 154

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Table 4: PY 2015 Consolidated Plan Program Summary

Programs	Federal And State Funds Total	Pct. of Total	Consolidated Plan Total[1]	Pct. of Total	Funding Sources: 1 Federal CDBG	2 Federal HOME	3 Federal ESG	4 Federal HOPWA	5 State OHTF[2]
Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program	$ 18,582,600	29.2%	$ 18,582,600	29.2%	$ 8,200,000	$ 10,382,600			*
Housing Development Assistance Program[2]	$ 3,500,000	5.5%	$ 3,500,000	5.5%		$ 3,500,000			*
CHDO Competitive Operating Grant Program	$ 500,000	0.8%	$ 500,000	0.8%		$ 500,000			
Affordable Housing Subtotal	$ 22,582,600	35.5%	$ 22,582,600	35.5%	$ 8,200,000	$ 14,382,600	$ -	$ -	$ -
Homeless Crisis Response Grant Program[3]	$ 5,219,700	8.2%	$ 5,219,700	8.2%			$ 5,219,700		*
Supportive Housing Grant Program	$ -	0.0%	$ -	0.0%					*
Housing Assistance Grant Program	$ -	0.0%	$ -	0.0%					*
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS	$ 1,266,159	2.0%	$ 1,266,159	2.0%				$ 1,266,159	
Homelessness & Supportive Housing Subtotal	$ 6,485,859	10.2%	$ 6,485,859	10.2%	$ -	$ -	$ 5,219,700	$ 1,266,159	$ -
Community Development Program[4]	$ 20,200,000	31.8%	$ 20,200,000	31.8%	$ 20,200,000				
Economic Dev. & Public Infrastructure Program[5]	$ 10,000,000	15.7%	$ 10,000,000	15.7%	$ 10,000,000				
Microenterprise Business Development Program	$ -	0.0%	$ -	0.0%	$ -				*
Community & Economic Development Subtotal	$ 30,200,000	47.5%	$ 30,200,000	47.5%	$ 30,200,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Target of Opportunity Grant Program	$ 1,000,000	1.6%	$ 1,000,000	1.6%	$ 900,000	$ -	$ 100,000		*
New Horizons Fair Housing Assistance Program	$ 50,000	0.1%	$ 50,000	0.1%	$ 50,000				
Training and Technical Assistance Funds	$ 334,500	0.5%	$ 334,500	0.5%	$ 334,500				*
Community Development Finance Fund	$ -	0.0%	$ -	0.0%					*
Resident Services Coordinator Program	$ -	0.0%	$ -	0.0%					*
Administration[6]	$ 2,941,242	4.6%	$ 2,941,242	4.6%	$ 911,913	$ 1,598,033	$ 431,296	$ -	*
Totals =	$ 63,594,201	100%	$ 63,594,201	100%	$ 40,596,413	$ 15,980,633	$ 5,750,996	$ 1,266,159	$ -

(1) The "Consolidated Plan Total" column includes the CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds awarded to the State of Ohio.

(2) OHTF allocations are contingent upon approval by the OHTF Advisory Committee and the Director of the Development Services Agency. Further, OHTF grant awards are contingent upon Controlling Board approval. OHFA administers the HDAP, ODA will administer the Resident Services Coordinator Program, and Ohio CDC will administer the Microenterprise Business Development Program. Therefore, in addition to program funds, OHFA will receive HOME and OHTF administrative dollars and ODA will receive OHTF administrative dollars.

(3) The Homeless Crisis Response Grant Program includes the OHTF funding set asides required by ORC Section 174.02 and unrestricted OHTF dollars.

(4) The Community Development Program includes the funding allocation for the Formula Allocation and three competitive set asides; Neighborhood Revitalization Grants, Downtown Revitalization Grants, and Critical Infrastructure grants (Approximately 40% of the Community Development Program will be allocated for these competitive awards).

(5) The Economic Development and Public Infrastucture Program includes Small Business Loans, Off-Site Infrastucture, and Residential Water & Sewer projects that were previously funded in separate programs.

(6) Approximately 60% of the HOME and 70% of the ESG administration allocation will be awarded to grant recipients.

Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan Allocation Priorities

Table 5 below indicates the budget allocations for PY 2015 based upon the HUD resources the state expects to receive. This chart is provided pursuant to HUD's requirement that the Consolidated Plan contain a statement of the state's allocation priorities and the reasons for such priorities. The program goals indicate how a particular need will be addressed and the basis for allocation references a section in the Consolidated Plan where the particular need is identified and discussed. Because these needs will be examined in the 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy, references to that document are cited rather than restated. The Draft 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Needs Statement can be obtained from OCD and is also available online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm.

Table 5: State of Ohio Allocation Priorities

Programs	Estimated 2015 Allocations		
Homeless and Supportive Housing	$6,485,859	**Program Goals**	**Basis For Allocation**
Homeless Crisis Response Program	$5,219,700	To provide a continuum of housing/services to prevent persons from becoming homeless by providing homelessness prevention services and assistance; move persons from homelessness to permanent housing through the provision of housing placement, emergency shelter, direct housing, and transitional housing; and provide long-term permanent supportive housing to homeless persons with disabilities.	Ohio 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy. The allocation is determined by HUD ESG funds.
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS	$1,266,159	OCD provides eligible non-profit organizations or units of local government with funds to devise long-term, comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing and supportive service needs of persons with AIDS or HIV-related diseases.	The state allocation for the HOPWA Program is the amount of funds allocated by HUD.
Affordable Housing	$22,582,600	**Program Goals**	**Basis For Allocation**
Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program	$18,582,600	Through an efficient, flexible, and impactful approach, the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) will partner with Ohio communities to preserve and improve the affordable housing stock for low- and moderate-income Ohioans and strengthen neighborhoods through community collaboration.	Ohio 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy.
Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP)	$3,500,000	To support the capacity of housing development organizations and to provide financing for eligible housing projects to expand the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing for very low-income to moderate-income persons and households in the state of Ohio.	Ohio 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy.
CHDO Competitive Operating Grant Program	$500,000	To provide limited operating support to organizations to continue affordable housing development and to provide capacity building opportunities to new organizations.	Capacity building for implementation of HDAP Projects.

(continued on next page)

Table 5: State of Ohio Allocation Priorities

Programs	Estimated 2015 Allocations		
Community and Economic Development	$30,200,000	**Program Goals**	**Basis For Allocation**
Community Development Program	$20,200,000	To provide communities with a flexible housing and community development resource that can be used to address locally identified needs that are eligible CDBG activities and qualify under the national objective of Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit or Elimination of Slum and Blight.	Ohio 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy.
Economic Development & Public Infrastructure Program	$10,000,000	To create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons, through the expansion and retention of business and industry in Ohio communities. The creation of a safe and sanitary living environment for Ohio citizens, through the provision of safe and reliable drinking water and proper disposal of sanitary waste.	Ohio 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy.
Other Programs	$1,284,500	**Program Goals**	**Basis For Allocation**
Target of Opportunity Grant Program	$900,000	To provide a means to fund worthwhile "targets of opportunity" projects and activities that do not fit within the structure of existing programs, and to provide supplemental resources to resolve immediate and unforeseen needs.	Based on identified community needs and historical demand for funds.
New Horizons Fair Housing Program (1)	$50,000	To provide funds to units of local government or consortia to affirmatively further fair housing in addition to activities undertaken with their minimum fair housing program requirements, based on an assessment of local needs.	
Training and Technical Assistance Funds	$334,500	To provide funds to intermediary organizations to conduct training and technical assistance activities.	

(1) Will be funded with dollars from previous years' CDBG allocations.

Housing, Shelter and Supportive Housing

Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program

Housing Development Assistance Program

Community Housing Development Organization Operating Grant Program

Homeless Crisis Response Program

Supportive Housing Program

Housing Assistance Grant Program

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program

Housing Production Goals for 2015

The following two tables indicate the estimated housing production goals for 2015. Table 6 indicates the number of housing units or households that will receive assistance during the upcoming year, and Table 7 indicates the HOPWA production goals. These figures are based on historical production; actual outcomes may vary. The goals for providing permanent housing for homeless persons and families are integrated into the Continuum of Care actions steps from pages 94-98.

Table 6: Housing Goals for 2015

One Year Goals of Housing Assistance		Annual Estimated Production*
Rental	Units Constructed / Added to Housing Stock	150
	Units Rehabilitated of Existing Units	50
	Rental Assistance Provided to Tenants	500
	Acquisition of Existing Units	50
Owner	Units Constructed / Added to Housing Stock	25
	Units Rehabilitated / Preserved to Standard	350
	Units Repaired	500

* Numbers are units, households persons or families, as applicable.

One Year Goal for the Number of Households to be Supported	Annual Estimated Production*
Homeless Persons or Families	200
Non-Homeless	200
Special-Needs Persons or Families	50

* Numbers are units, households persons or families, as applicable.

Table 7: HOPWA Production Goals for 2015

Category	Annual Goals
Short term rent, mortgage and utility assistance payments	800
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	10
Units provided in transitional housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	0
Total =	810

1. Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program

Goal: Through an efficient, flexible, and impactful approach, the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program will partner with Ohio communities to preserve and improve the affordable housing stock for low- and moderate-income Ohioans and strengthen neighborhoods through community collaboration.

Total Funds: Approximately $18.5 million. Approximately $8.2 million in CDBG funds will be combined with an estimated $10.3 million of HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds and SFY 2016 Ohio Housing Trust Funds (to be determined). CHIP Program funds will be distributed in one competitive funding round.

Grant Ceiling: Through a competitive application process, jurisdictions may apply for a maximum award as follows:

Single-Community Applicants: Single-community applicants may apply for a maximum award outlined in the chart below. Jurisdictions that are able to partner, but are applying as a single-community applicant, must refer to Column A. Points associated with partnership development will not be awarded under any circumstances when scored for funding. The remaining single-community applicants must refer to Column B.

	A	B
Single County	$300,000	$400,000
Single City with a population of at least15,000	$250,000	$350,000
Single City with a population between 5,000 and 14,999	$200,000	$300,000

Partnership Applicants: Eligible jurisdictions may collaborate to form a partnership (see Partnership Composition). The maximum award for each partnership cannot exceed the aggregate maximum total amount of each CHIP Program-eligible community in the partnership as follows:

Partnering County	$450,000
Partnering City (within its own County) with a population of at least 15,000	$400,000
Partnering City (within its own County) with a population between 5,000 and 14,999	$350,000

Regardless of the number of communities in the partnership, the maximum grant request cannot exceed $1.6 million.

Partnership Composition: Parameters for developing a partnership are as follows:

- A partnership's boundaries cannot exceed two adjacent counties.
- An eligible city can only partner within its own county, either with the county or another CHIP Program-eligible city within the county.
- One of the eligible communities (city or county) in the partnership will be the applicant/potential grantee.
- If an eligible partner is not interested in participating in the CHIP Program, the application for funding must contain an opt-out letter from the jurisdiction's CEO in order to receive points associated with partnership development. The opt-out period must be for at least two years. Such applicants must refer to "Grant Ceiling, Column B." This is an option only available to jurisdictions that are not interested in the CHIP Program at all, not for jurisdictions that choose not to partner.
- Jurisdictions are allowed to submit or be a part of only one application.

Counties without CHIP Program-eligible cities, and cities located in a non-eligible CHIP Program County, will automatically receive points associated with partnership development. Such counties have the option to form a partnership with an adjacent county and its eligible cities if feasible, using the terms associated with "Grant Ceiling, Column B".

For jurisdictions that do not have a viable partnership option because available partners were funded in PY 2014, the following options are available:

- Apply as a single-community for a one-year grant at 50 percent of the eligible maximum ceiling using the terms associated with "Grant Ceiling, Column B", and then apply in PY 2016 with an available partner(s). Points associated with partnership development will be received automatically; or
- Apply as a single community applicant using the terms associated with "Grant Ceiling, Column A"; or,
- Abstain from applying in PY 2015 and apply in PY 2016 with an available partner(s).

Prior to submitting the application, the partnership must prepare a plan for expending the awarded funds throughout each jurisdiction. The plan must be submitted in the application for the Office of Community Development to evaluate.

One of the eligible communities (city or county) in the partnership will be the applicant. The applicant will be determined by the partnership and identified in the application. The Office of Community Development expects CHIP Program services to be delivered within the partnership's jurisdictions. Partnership agreements between the applicant and partnering communities will be submitted in the application for funding. Sub-recipient agreements are prohibited.

Non-entitlement cities and counties that are part of a participating jurisdiction consortium and entitlement/non-participating jurisdictions must apply as single-community applicants. Such jurisdictions are not eligible to apply for funding under a partnership.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Jurisdictions are eligible for PY 2015 CHIP Program funding only if they were eligible to apply for PY 2012 or PY 2013 funding under the Community Housing Improvement Program by means of having an approved Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS) and CHIP Policy and Procedures Manual. Eligible jurisdictions include (see listing of all eligible jurisdictions in Table 8, on page 20):

Note: Under Section 703.06 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Secretary of State's office reviews the 10-year Census report and verifies the population totals of all municipalities and villages. The full listing of all city and village classifications can be viewed at http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/mediaCenter/2011/2011-04-13.aspx:

1. Non-entitlement/non-participating jurisdictions (cities and counties) with an approved Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS) and CHIP Policy and Procedures Manual (eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Ohio Housing Trust Fund and HOME funds);

2. Non-entitlement cities and counties that are part of a participating jurisdiction consortium, as defined by the HOME Program regulations, with a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved Consolidated Plan, an approved Strategies Element (Section 4 of the CHIS), and an approved CHIP Policy and Procedures Manual (eligible to receive Ohio Housing Trust Fund and CDBG funds [Communities with an allocation of more than $400,000 from HUD per year are eligible for a maximum CHIP award of $250,000. The remaining jurisdictions must refer to "Grant Ceiling, Single-Community Applicants, Column B"]). Jurisdictions are eligible to apply for funding as a single applicant only and will automatically receive points associated with partnership development during application scoring; and

3. Entitlement/non-participating jurisdictions (counties and cities) with an approved Consolidated Plan, an approved Strategies Element (Section 4 of the CHIS), and an approved CHIP Policy and Procedures Manual (eligible to receive HOME funds [Communities with an allocation of more than $400,000 from HUD per year are eligible for a maximum CHIP award of $250,000. The remaining jurisdictions must refer to "Grant Ceiling, Single-Community Applicants, Column B"]). Jurisdictions are eligible to apply for funding as a single applicant only and will automatically receive points associated with partnership development during application scoring.)].

   Jurisdictions awarded PY 2014 CHIP Program funding as an applicant or a partner are not eligible to apply until PY 2016.

Eligible Project Categories with Respective Activities:

Rehabilitation Assistance
- Owner Rehabilitation
- Rental Rehabilitation

Repair Assistance

- Owner Home Repair
- Rental Home Repair

Homeownership Assistance

- Homeownership (Down Payment Assistance/Rehabilitation or Down Payment Assistance only)
- New Construction with Habitat for Humanity

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance
Administration
Fair Housing

Application Timing:

Submission: May 1, 2015
Grant Award: September 1, 2015

Administrative Costs: A maximum of 12 percent of the total grant request may be budgeted for eligible general administrative activities. The HOME Program administrative budget amount is limited to 10 percent of the total HOME Program funds requested. Fair housing activities may be included in the CDBG administrative funds request. Eligible administrative costs are identified at 24 CFR 570.206 for CDBG funds and 24 CFR 92.207 for HOME Program funds.

All soft costs related to work completed on a specific unit meeting a national objective must be paid for in one of two ways:

(a) these costs may be charged to the unit, or
(b) these costs may be charged to administration.

All soft costs associated with projects that do not meet a national objective must be charged to administration. Eligible soft costs for the CDBG Program are defined at 24 CFR Part 570.202(b) (9) and for the HOME Program at 24 CFR 92.207(b).

Program Income: Any program income resulting from expending these funds may be retained by the grantee in separate accounts. However, all CDBG program income must be used for a primary CDBG housing activity, and all HOME Program income must be used for an eligible HOME Program activity. Eligible program income expenditures must follow the grantees OCD-approved CHIP Policy and Procedure Manual and executed Housing Revolving Loan Fund Administrative Agreement, or receive OCD's prior written approval. Using program income must comply with the OCD Program Income Policy ("Attachment 12") at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_fiscalforms.htm and applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. In accordance with 24 CFR 92.504(c)(1)(viii), committed housing program income must be disbursed prior to the grantee requesting funds from the State. Also, OCD requires that all uncommitted Housing Program Income balances at the time of application, HOME or CDBG, be committed to projects in the CHIP Program application or designated in the implementation plan to be expended during the grant period.

Local Program Period: PY 2015 CHIP Program grantees must complete their programs according to the following deadlines:

(1) all activities (except audit and balance of administration) must be completed by the end of the 26th month, following the grant agreement date;
(2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 27th month; and
(3) all funds must be disbursed and expended, and the final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 28th month. Audit(s) of this grant must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the Ohio CDBG Program Financial Handbook.

Program Beneficiaries: One hundred percent (100 percent) of all funds must be budgeted for activities benefiting low- or moderate-income households.

Fair Housing Requirements: Communities receiving CHIP Program funds must meet Fair Housing requirements as described in the Local Government Certifications to the State (see the OCD Program Policy section of this document).

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: Consistent with the state's Consolidated Plan goal of providing a continuum of care in housing assistance, the state will offer Tenant-Based Rental Assistance opportunities.

The state will allow communities to establish a local Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program through the state's decentralized CHIP Program. The state will only fund applicants if:

1. The need for tenant-based rental assistance has been identified as a need through the local planning process, and/or is part of the jurisdiction's local housing strategy, and describes the local market conditions that support the need for this type of assistance; and

2. Families or individuals provided with HOME tenant-based rental assistance are below 50 percent of the area median income and selected on the basis of either A or B, or C as follows:

   A. The Section 8 waiting list of a Public Housing Authority (PHA) operating within the applicant's jurisdiction based on preferences established by the PHA.

   B. A waiting list established by the participating jurisdiction based on the established Federal Preferences and/or local preferences.

   C. Eligible families that currently reside in units designated for rehabilitation under the HOME Program without requiring them to be placed on the PHA waiting list.

Resale/Recapture Requirements: Program Specific Resale and Recapture Requirement may be viewed on page 126. Communities receiving CHIP Program grant awards shall abide by Program Policy Notice OCD 13-01, Finance Mechanisms for Office of Community Development Program-Funded Projects. This policy can be viewed at http://www.development.ohio.gov/files/cs/OCD%2013-01%20Finance%20Mechanism.pdf.

Rating Criteria: All applications are reviewed, rated, and scored based on the criteria outlined below. Applications will achieve a score up to 100 points. The process is competitive and designed to rank, in order, the communities to be funded through the CHIP Program.

Needs (15 total points)

Needs will include an assessment of the applicant's level of distress based upon an average of the following trends in the current census data related to low- and moderate-income household needs across the state using: (1) an average of the participating communities percentage of low- and moderate-income populations, (2) the percentage of households paying more than 35 percent of income for housing, (3) age of housing stock, and (4) unemployment rates. Also, it will include an assessment of the community's application planning process based on required documentation submitted in the application relevant to the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting.

Capacity (25 total points)

Administrative capacity will include the adequacy of the proposed administrative plan; the degree of consistency with application requirements; the applicant's/consultant's experience and capacity for implementing the proposed activities, and the adequate filling of the required roles to successfully administer a grant.

Performance (30 total points)

Performance will include prior and current performance in administering the compliance with grant agreement(s), program regulations and policies', resolving monitoring and/or audit findings, and progress in completing activities. All OCD-administered programs may be evaluated.

Impact (30 total points)

Impact will be based on the applicant's demonstrated readiness to proceed with the proposed activities; the consistency within the community's application; federal and state program requirements, and the application instructions. Impact will also take into consideration cost effectiveness, leveraged non-CHIP Program funds, and the applicant's ability to demonstrate collaboration with other local resources. If applicable, an applicant joining a partnership of eligible communities to administer the program will be evaluated. Counties containing no CHIP Program-eligible cities, cities that are within a non-eligible CHIP Program County and

such jurisdictions not eligible to form a partnership (see “Eligible Jurisdictions #2 and #3) will automatically receive points associated for partnership development.

CHIP Program Amendment/Extension Policy: Situations Requiring an Amendment:

1. An amendment to an executed grant agreement **is required** if the grantee is proposing a new activity. A public hearing is required for a new activity and the hearing must be preceded by a 10-day public notice. Because the CHIP Program is competitive, OCD generally does not allow amendments to CHIP Program grants for this purpose, except in extreme circumstances.

2. An amendment to an executed grant agreement **is required** if there is a substantial change in an approved project or activity scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries, anticipated accomplishment, or national objective. In addition, a public hearing is required and must be preceded by a 10-day notice.

3. An amendment to an executed grant agreement is required if the amount most recently approved by OCD for any previously approved project category is being increased or decreased by more than $5,000 or 10 percent, whichever is greater. These thresholds must be applied to both the project category from which the funds are to be removed and the project category to which the funds will be added. Increases or decreases less than this threshold will be reconciled during the closeout process. The administration cap may not be exceeded, and activity dollars may not be moved to administration without an amendment.
4. An amendment to an executed grant agreement is not required to increase or decrease the number of outcomes associated with project categories. Outcomes are indicators of planning and performance. Unless the difference between the projected outcomes and the actual outcomes is significant, it will generally not be considered in future funding application reviews.

5. Amendments to extend the grant period (extensions) will generally be discouraged, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Extensions will only be granted to communities without ongoing funding opportunities for extreme circumstances.

   Amendments must be reviewed and approved by OCD **before** implementing the proposed change.

Due to the nature of competitive programs, grantees are discouraged from making any changes to their programs. Therefore, amendments and extensions to competitive programs will be considered during future funding application reviews.

PY 2015 CHIP Program Eligible Communities: The jurisdictions in Table 8 are eligible for PY 2015 CHIP Program funding only if they were eligible to apply for PY 2012 or PY 2013 funding under the Community Housing Improvement Program by means of having an approved Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS) and CHIP Policy and Procedures Manual or, for Entitlement Communities, an approved Consolidated Plan and the Strategies element (Section 4) of the CHIS. The following communities are eligible for PY 2015 CHIP Program Funding if no PY 2014 CHIP Program Funds were awarded to the community as an applicant or as a partner.

Table 8: PY 2015 CHIP CDBG and OHTF Eligible Communities

Trumbull County

PY 2015 CHIP HOME Eligible Communities

Clermont County	Lancaster	Sandusky
Elyria	Marietta	Steubenville
Fairborn	Newark	Warren County
Kent		

PY 2015 CHIP CDBG, OHTF and HOME Eligible Counties

Adams	Coshocton	Hancock	Lorain	Ottawa	Tuscarawas
Allen	Crawford	Hardin	Lucas	Paulding	Union
Ashland	Darke	Harrison	Madison	Perry	Van Wert
Ashtabula	Defiance	Henry	Mahoning	Pickaway	Vinton
Athens	Delaware	Highland	Medina	Pike	Washington
Auglaize	Erie	Hocking	Meigs	Portage	Wayne
Belmont	Fairfield	Holmes	Mercer	Preble	Williams
Brown	Fayette	Huron	Miami	Putnam	Wood
Carroll	Fulton	Jackson	Monroe	Ross	Wyandot
Champaign	Gallia	Jefferson	Morgan	Sandusky	
Clark	Geauga	Knox	Morrow	Scioto	
Clinton	Greene	Licking	Muskingum	Seneca	
Columbiana	Guernsey	Logan	Noble	Shelby	

PY 2015 CHIP CDBG, OHTF and HOME Eligible Cities with Population <u>over 15,000</u>

Ashland	Chillicothe	Marysville	North Ridgeville	Sidney	Xenia
Ashtabula	Defiance	Medina	Norwalk	Streetsboro	Zanesville
Athens	Delaware	Mount Vernon	Oregon	Tiffin	
Aurora	Fremont	New Philadelphia	Piqua	Wadsworth	
Brunswick	Marion	Niles	Portsmouth	Wooster	

PY 2015 CHIP CDBG, OHTF and HOME Eligible Cities with Population <u>under 15,000</u>

Bellefontaine	Cortland	Girard	Napoleon	Sheffield Lake	Van Wert
Belpre	Coshocton	Greenville	Nelsonville	Shelby	Vermilion
Bryan	Dover	Hillsboro	Northwood	St. Clairsville	Washington C.H.
Bucyrus	East Liverpool	Jackson	Oberlin	Struthers	Wellston
Cambridge	Eaton	Kenton	Pataskala	Toronto	Wilmington
Campbell	Fostoria	Logan	Port Clinton	Uhrichsville	
Circleville	Galion	London	Ravenna	Upper Sandusky	
Conneaut	Geneva	Martins Ferry	Salem	Urbana	

2. Housing Development Assistance Program

Goal: The goal of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's (OHFA) Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) is to support the capacity of housing development organizations and to provide financing for eligible housing developments to expand the supply of decent, safe, affordable housing for very low-income to moderate-income persons and households in the state of Ohio.

Total Funds: The HDAP will use the following resources for providing financial assistance to eligible developments. Funds will be awarded in the form of a loan or grant.

HOME Investment Partnerships Funds: Approximately $3.5 million. Federal regulations relating to environmental review, federal wage rates, federal accessibility, federal acquisition and relocation laws (URA and Section 104(d)), long-term affordability, etc. apply.

Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF): (Amount to be determined) The Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars, pending Controlling Board approval, will be awarded in order to provide gap financing to developments predominantly serving low-income households with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The Ohio Housing Trust Fund gives preference to those developments that benefit households with incomes at or below 35 percent of the area median income for the county where the development is located, as established by HUD.

Ohio Housing Trust Fund resources may also be used for homeownership developments and development or rehabilitation of housing serving people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities. All households served will have incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income. At least 50 percent of all OHTF funds are to be allocated to rural areas and small cities that would not be eligible to participate as a participating jurisdiction under the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. State prevailing wages and associated laws are applicable.

The resources described above will be allocated for preserving at-risk affordable housing, creating new affordable rental housing, and developing affordable homeownership opportunities through the following programs administered by OHFA: Housing Credit Gap Financing, (both competitive and non-competitive), and Housing Development Gap Financing (HDGF).

Funding Requirements for All Gap Financing Awards:

1) **Reporting and Record Keeping:** The applicant will be responsible for compliance with applicable implementation, reporting and record keeping requirements associated with the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, OHFA, and state regulations.

2) **Environmental Review Requirements:** Developments may be funded with Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) or HOME Investment Partnerships dollars at OHFA's discretion. Best efforts will be made to fund scattered site developments (10 or more non-contiguous parcels) with OHTF dollars. OHTF-funded developments are not subject to the environmental review requirements as outlined at 24 CFR Part 58; however, the recipient of funds must provide the following information to OHFA:

- A Phase I environmental site assessment that meets American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards (E1527-00 or most current at application). In addition, the Phase I shall address any environmental conditions (on or off-site) which, while not meeting the ASTM definition of a recognized environmental condition, could pose a threat to the residents' health or safety at the site. Such potential environmental conditions include, but are not limited to, asbestos, lead paint, mines, air quality, and explosion hazards (above ground storage tanks, overhead pipelines, and oil/gas wells). The ASTM minimum search distances for government records must be met for each site and the Phase I shall draw justified conclusions on the potential impact on the project

sites. The Phase I firm shall provide recommendations regarding all identified environmental conditions. At its discretion, OHFA may make exemptions to requiring the Phase I Environmental review for small or scattered site developments.

Each development could be subject to a 24 CFR Part 58 Environmental Review, regardless of the source of funds committed to the project. All developments may be subject to an environmental review, regardless of source of funds committed to the project.

OHFA will allocate $1,000 per development funded with HOME funds for publishing the environmental review Public Notice.

3) **Determination of and Requirements for Assisted Units:** The amount of HOME/HDAP funds will be used to determine the number of units that are HOME assisted and must comply with HUD's High- and Low-HOME rent requirements. OHFA will calculate the amount using the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{Total\ \ Amount\ of\ HOME\ and\ HOME\ match\ dollars}{Total\ Eligible\ Development\ Costs}\right) \times Total\ number\ of\ units\ in\ development$$

The total amount of HOME and HOME-match dollars includes HDAP funding, regardless of the source, plus local dollars. The number of units that receive HOME assistance will be rounded up to determine the number of assisted units that must comply with HOME rent restrictions. OHFA may have to increase the number of HOME assisted units if: (1) the total subsidy per assisted unit exceeds the 221(d)(3) limits, and/or (2) the total subsidy per assisted unit exceeds the total development cost per unit.

If there are five or more units assisted by HOME dollars (state and local) in the development, 20 percent of the assisted units will be restricted to the Low-HOME rents. Assisted units will also be distributed evenly among various unit sizes in the development. OHFA reserves the right to require that units assisted through the HDAP be distributed evenly between newly constructed units and rehabilitated units. The applicant can elect for those units to be fixed units or floating units. For homeownership developments, all units will be considered assisted.

4) **Rehabilitation Standards:** Developments that involve rehabilitating structures must adhere to the OCD Residential Rehabilitation Standards (RRS). Refer to OCD's RRS Handbook, or other standards agreed upon by OHFA and OCD.

5) **Lead-Based Paint Standards:** All housing developments designed to rehabilitate pre-1978 structures must adhere to the Ohio Development Services Agency's Lead-Based Paint Guidelines.

6) **Relocation Standards:** All developments, regardless of funding source, that involve rehabilitating existing occupied units must submit a Relocation Plan or rehabilitation strategy that outlines the plan to work with the tenants in place. If the development receives federal funds, the plan must meet the requirements set forth in the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. If the development involves acquisition, the applicant must supply the "Real Property Acquisition and Relocation Certifications and Voluntary Acquisition Forms" for the project.

7) **Timeline:** The HDAP recipient will confirm that all financing is committed and submit a Closing Request to OHFA which must be received at the OHFA offices at 57 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43215, by October 29, 2016.

8) **Changes to Approved Applications:** The HDAP recipient must notify OHFA, in writing, of all changes, financial or otherwise, relating to an application for financial assistance of an approved development. Failure to notify OHFA may jeopardize the applicant's ability to receive assistance in the future. If there are any substantive changes to the development prior to executing the Funding Agreement, OHFA may require the applicant to resubmit the application.

9) **Eligible/Ineligible Applicants:** Applicants can be private for-profit, not-for-profit developers/owners, or public housing authorities. For developments owned by partnerships (limited liability corporations, etc.), to qualify for financing terms available to not-for-profit organizations, the majority/controlling general partner interest must be held by a not-for-profit (for-profit affiliates of not-for-profit parent corporations qualify as a not-for-profit in a partnership situation). To request financing terms available to not-for-profit organizations, the applicant must provide evidence of IRS 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status. To be eligible for funding, religious organizations must meet the provisions in 24 CFR Part 92.257 as amended by HUD September 30, 2003. In addition, applicants applying for funding in the Housing Development Gap Financing round must be Ohio-based organizations.

OHFA reserves the right to evaluate local governmental or quasi-governmental entities to determine whether or not HDAP funds should be awarded, based on the entity's development experience and the proposed project that include the following:

- are identified as hospitals, nursing homes, sanitariums, life-care facilities, retirement homes (if providing significant services other than housing are mandatory for residents), employer housing, mobile homes and student housing; or,
- have received a new allocation of tax-exempt bonds (private purpose volume cap) for new construction.

OHFA reserves the right to evaluate developments that received other forms of federal subsidy (such as Capital Advance Grants through HUD 202 or 811; HOPE VI; Public Housing Authority funds or Rural Development 515 financing with new construction; or FAF funds) and determine what amount, if any, the development needs to be financially feasible.

Developments that have previously received an award through the Housing Development Assistance Program may not be eligible to receive additional funds. OHFA reserves the right to evaluate such developments in an appeal process to determine the facts and circumstances that necessitate the need for additional funds and to ensure projects are not over subsidized.

OHFA would prefer that HDAP resources be used to provide new opportunities for affordable housing or to preserve affordable housing for the residents of Ohio. Therefore, OHFA reserves the right to determine whether or not rehabilitating existing affordable renter-occupied housing is eligible. For this purpose, 'affordable' is defined as housing which, as a result of one of the funding sources, the population being served or the area in which the project is located, is required to maintain below market-rate rents on any of its units. Applicants requesting funds for this purpose must be prepared to present compelling reasons why HDAP funds should be used to rehabilitate an existing affordable development.

10) **Projects per Developer:** Developers may submit more than one proposed development per year based on the organization's capacity to implement multiple and/or simultaneous projects. OHFA reserves the right to require further information and to make a determination on organization's capacity to carry out multiple developments, which will

include status and progress on projects previously using any resources provided by OHFA. OHFA may also limit the amount of HDAP awarded to any single developer.

OHFA reserves the right to combine the costs for developments located in close proximity to each other and share similar attributes such as project type, construction style, and development team.

11) **Cost Certification:** At the construction is completed, each development will be required to obtain and submit a cost certification prepared by an independent certified public accountant or other comparable documentation approved by OHFA.

12) **Fee Limits:** Developer's fee for applications submitted in connection with gap financing awards must be consistent with the limits established in the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP), HDGF or other funding guidelines.

13) **Public Notification:** Applicants intending to develop rental housing (including lease-purchase) must comply with the ORC §175.07 pertaining to public notification.

14) **Loans:**

- Interest rate of 2 percent, or a negotiated rate agreed upon by OHFA and the project ownership based on the project's cash flow.
- Loan will mature at the end of the affordability period. The affordability period is defined as the minimum term required in CFR 92 and any extended affordability period imposed by OHFA.
- OHFA prefers a second or shared second position if collateral will be a subordinate mortgage position. If a lower position is necessary, the applicant should indicate so in the application along with an explanation and supporting documentation.
- Collateral for Section 8 projects participating in the Mark-to-Market program: OHFA will require collateral in the portion of the owner's position to the extent that the HDAP assistance is used to fund the owner's 20 percent up-front rehabilitation contribution required by the Mark-to-Market program.

- Payments will be based on a percentage of the project's cash flow as defined by OHFA. During the entire term of the loan, repayments to the HDAP-Recipient for the HDAP loan to the project are also excluded from the definition of cash flow (except to the extent that the payment ultimately flows to OHFA). Any remaining balance on the HDAP loan is due as a balloon payment at the end of the term or upon sale, whichever is first. OHFA may agree to subordinate to other government investors (USDA Rural Development (RD) or HUD) and accept payments consistent with their terms. However, this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
    - Loan interest will accrue and repayment obligations will start following the project close-out, regardless of the Placed-in-Service date. Closed-out means the HDAP recipient leased the "Assisted" units, and provided the appropriate documentation to OHFA and OHFA approved the documentation.
    - For HOME-funded developments, loans will be made to the development's ownership entity. OHTF loans will be made to the HDAP recipient as the project's general partner, managing member or equivalent that may then lend the funds to the project at a commercially reasonable rate. OHFA reserves the right to designate which general partner/managing member/owner, if more than one, will be the recipient.

15) **Grants:**

Grants must be requested and are available only when all of the following conditions are met:

- The eligible applicant is the controlling general partner and is a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) not-for-profit (for-profit affiliates of not-for-profit parent corporations qualify as a not-for-profit in a partnership situation).
- At least 20 percent of the units in the development will be occupied by and affordable to households at or below 35 percent of the Area Median Income.
- The recipient must treat the funds as a grant for tax purposes. If the recipient is the project, it will receive an IRS Form 1099.
- The recipient cannot loan the funds to the development, but must treat it as a grant or capital contribution.

Developments that meet both the requirements established by OHFA for Permanent Supportive Housing and the above-noted conditions are also eligible to request a grant.

For Housing credit developments that request a direct grant, the HDAP funds may be included in eligible tax credit basis if the funds are a general partner's capital contribution ***and*** provided that the development can provide a tax-opinion certifying the funds as part of eligible basis. The development must still meet all of the above-noted requirements to be eligible for a grant. However, when considering eligibility for a grant, OHFA will apply the regulations governing the funds awarded (HOME or OHTF) when considering how the recipient passes the award on to the development.

16) Transitional Housing:

Transitional housing is eligible for funding if the service population receives the appropriate supportive services and the applicant designates a minimum occupancy period for residents.

17) Affordability Requirements:

Developments located in Participating Jurisdiction (**PJ)** areas must show that at least **40 percent** of the development's affordable units must be <u>occupied by and affordable to families at or below 50 percent AMI</u> for the entire affordability period. Developments located in **Non-PJ** areas must show that at least **35 percent** of the development's affordable units must be <u>occupied by and affordable to 50 percent AMI households</u> for the entire affordability period. Affordable units are defined as units that are affordable to households at or below 60 percent of the AMGI.

Rents established by project-based contracts may increase, as allowed, by that project-based assistance. Existing tenants may not be displaced to achieve the minimum occupancy percentage by very low-income households. Occupancy in up to 60 percent of the development by households with higher incomes is to occur over time; at turnover, units may be leased to higher income households.

<u>Housing Credit Gap Financing</u>: Projects located in PJ areas must show that at least 10 percent of units will be affordable to and occupied by households at or below 35 percent of area median income. Projects not located in PJ areas must show that at least 5 percent of units will be affordable to and occupied by households at or below 35 percent of the area median income.

NOTE: Existing occupancy and/or affordability restrictions imposed because of the project-based federal assistance may take precedence over OHFA requirements.

18) Programs:

<u>A. Housing Development Gap Financing (HDGF)</u>

HDGF provides gap financing to developers creating housing without using housing credits or multifamily tax-exempt (private activity) bonds. Applicants may apply for gap financing for rental development or preservation of existing affordable housing.

Eligible Applicants:

Ohio-based nonprofit and for-profit developers and public housing authorities proposing to develop rental developments financed with source(s) other than equity generated by combining low-income housing tax credits. Developments must have a minimum of four units.

Eligible Activities:

HDGF resources in the development budget may only be applied toward non- related, third party acquisition costs, hard costs associated with new construction or rehabilitation, developer fees, and eligible soft costs associated with actually developing renter-occupied projects that create housing opportunities.

On a case-by-case basis, the cost of previously purchased land may be considered as a portion of the total costs and therefore may be eligible for reimbursement.

HDGF resources may be utilized in mixed-use buildings; however, the HDGF application must only represent the residential portion of the development. The residential income must support the development and operating expenses of the residential portion.

Funding Limit:

Total HDGF funds in the development cannot exceed 50 percent of the project's total cost. OHFA may, on a case-by-case basis, agree to subsidize more than this based on the local resources available, the development design or the project location.

The HDGF will utilize funds from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and HOME Investment Partnerships Program to fund affordable rental housing development. The development must constitute creating new affordable housing units through renovation or new construction.

- Up to $450,000 per development in HUD Participating Jurisdictions (PJs), based on funding availability.
- Up to $700,000 per development in HUD Non-Participating Jurisdictions (Non PJs), based on funding availability.
- Up to $750,000 per development for Permanent Supportive Housing.

OHFA reserves the right to exceed these limits, on a project basis, after performing a financial underwriting analysis of the project.

No local government match requirement will be imposed on these developments.

B. Housing Credit Gap Financing

Eligible Applicants:

Private housing developers and public housing authorities seeking competitive tax credits in the current Housing Credit program year. All applicants must be a sole general partner, controlling/managing general partner, or a general partner/managing member with a material interest in the ownership structure of at least 25 percent.

Funding Limits:

The following limits will be placed on projects in the 9 percent competitive housing credit round:

- $750,000 for eligible Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) projects, or an amount approved by OHFA based on the needs of the project and/or funding availability.
- $300,000 for non-CHDO projects, or an amount approve by OHFA based on the needs of the project and/or funding availability.

The following limit will be placed on projects in the 4 percent competitive housing credit round:

- Up to $1,000,000, based on the needs of the project, as determined through multifamily underwriting and/or funding availability.

Total Housing Credit Gap Financing (HCGF) funds in the development cannot exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

OHFA may impose a Local Government Match Requirement. The amount of match required will depend on the amount of federal funds the the Participating Jurisdiction receives as well as the nature of the proposed development. OHFA will adopt a broad definition for what constitutes match funding including, but not limited to, tax abatements, government-donated land and local HOME or Trust fund dollars.

In conjunction with multifamily tax-exempt bond financing (private purpose volume cap) for preserving affordable housing (subject to the availability of funds):

Private housing developers and public housing authorities must receive an award of volume cap on or after July 1, 2014, for acquiring or rehabilitating or substantially rehabilitating an existing HUD Section 8 or RD project. Developments must have also received a housing credits allocation. Applicants must be a sole general partner, controlling/managing general partner, or a general partner/managing member with a material interest of at least 25 percent in the ownership structure.

The development cannot have closed on the bonds prior to application. Closing "in Escrow" will be considered by OHFA to be closed.

Eligible Activities:

In conjunction with a development funded with tax credits, the development location must be in a non PJ area.

HCGF resources in the development budget may only be applied toward hard costs associated with new construction or rehabilitation, developer fees, and eligible soft costs associated with actually developing renter-occupied developments that create housing opportunities or preserve existing affordable housing (acquisition costs are not eligible use of gap financing under the housing credit program).

HCGF resources may be utilized in mixed-use buildings; however, the HCGF application must only represent the residential portion of the development. The residential income must support the development and operating expenses of the residential portion.

HCGF-assisted rental units may be converted to homeownership units under the housing credit lease-purchase program. OHFA may elect to forgive one-half of the original loan and accrued interest up to the point of sale if the unit has been maintained as safe, decent and sanitary housing. The balance due will be passed on to the homebuyer as affordability subsidy. The units will be subject to the minimum affordability period equal to the remaining affordability period established by HUD if the units had continued as rental housing. The recipient will be responsible for monitoring and reporting under the current guidelines. The recipient must require the homebuyer to provide notification if they intend to sell the property, and the recipient must make a determination of whether funds must be recaptured and returned to OHFA. OHFA reserves the right to request any documentation it deems necessary to determine the eligible amount of affordability subsidy, including, but not limited to, an appraisal demonstrating the fair market value of the property.

19) Application Review Criteria:

All HDAP applications will include an application review and all required supporting documentation to ensure that the development is financially feasible and meets all HOME and OHFA program requirements.

20) Fees:

Application Fee:

OHFA may elect to impose an application fee and/or a reservation fee for developments submitted in the, HDGF funding round. The nominal reservation fee will be based on threshold deficiencies, in order to encourage submitting complete and accurate applications. A nominal, non-refundable application fee will be required to encourage applicants to submit only applications for funding on developments they believe they can complete.

Applications submitted in the housing credit round will not be assessed an application fee, but remain subject to all applicable fees assessed by other programs administered through OHFA.

Amendment/Extensions or Reinstatement to Funding Agreements: OHFA may elect to impose a $500 fee for each amendment or extension made to the funding agreement. OHFA may also elect to impose a $1,000 fee to reinstate an expired funding agreement. These fees are implemented to encourage applicants to complete developments in a timely manner and as proposed in the application.

21) Waivers

OHFA reserves the right to waive State-imposed requirements if the applicant demonstrates compelling reason. OHFA will review such requests on a case-by-case basis.

22) Application Review Process:

The application will be assigned to a Housing Development Analyst (HDA) who will be responsible for the application review, funding agreement processing and resolving post-award implementation issues.

OHFA reserves the right to determine cost reasonableness and fees associated with the development.

Threshold Review - The threshold criteria assures that all selected developments comply with program requirements. Applications that do not meet the threshold requirements will not be considered for funding. *The only exception to this will be the Housing Credit Gap Financing developments, which will follow the Threshold Review process established in the OHFA Qualified Allocation Plan.*

NOTE: The Threshold Review period is **NOT** to be considered additional time to provide required documentation. Threshold Review is an opportunity to correct errors in documents provided. Applicants are expected to provide a complete application on or before the designated deadline.

Award Process:

The Housing Credit Gap Financing developments will follow the allocation system established in the OHFA Qualified Allocation Plan. OHFA reserves the right to prioritize developments located in rural areas and developments not located in a HUD Participating Jurisdiction, regardless of the Pool in which the development was funded.

Applications submitted in the HDGF round will be evaluated based on the following criteria: 1) capacity and experience of the applicant and development team; 2) financial feasibility of the development; 3) site selection; 4) development design; 5) demonstrated market for the development and 6) Policies as stated in the Program Guidelines.

Tie Breaker:

In the event a Tie Breaker becomes necessary, OHFA will prioritize those projects which most effectively meet OHFA's Policies.

Proforma or Affordability Analysis - A financial review will include an evaluation to determine the amount of funds necessary to complete the actual development of the development, considering all other committed sources.

The financial review for rental housing developments includes the analysis of a 15-year proforma, assuming a 2 percent annual revenue increase, a 3 percent annual operating expense increase, and a 7 percent stabilized vacancy rate. If the proforma forecasts different assumptions, justification must be provided. The affordability analysis for rental developments requires the resident's rent and utility payments not to exceed 30 percent of an income-qualified household's income at the projected affordability level. Utility allowance information must be obtained from the local public housing authority, local utility provider, or other approved source (e.g. actual usage history on rehabilitation developments).

Pre-Award Site Visit - The Housing Development Analyst (HDAS) may conduct a site visit prior to submitting a funding recommendation. The purpose of the visit is 1) to allow the HDA to evaluate the proposed development site for suitability and impact on the surrounding community, 2) to allow the HDA to confirm the status of previously funded developments, and 3) to develop the relationship between the applicant and OHFA. Both parties can discuss any issues or concerns regarding the proposed development and the organization has an opportunity to familiarize OHFA staff with their overall programs and operations.

Formal Recommendation for Funding - For developments funded through OHTF and HOME, the HDA will present the development and submit a funding recommendation, either for approval or rejection, to the HDS team, and the

OHFA Board's Multifamily Committee. The Committee will submit a formal recommendation to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's Board.

Upon approval by the OHFA Board, OHFA staff will notify the community's state legislators and issue a press release.

23) Application Submission:

Proposals must be submitted on a CD, with all required documents clearly labeled as detailed in the program guidelines.

Applications should be submitted to the Office of Planning, Preservation and Development, Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), 57 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5135.

The Housing Credit Gap Financing and Housing Credit application submission dates will be the same. The OHFA Board will determine the applications deadline for the HDGF funding round(s).

Incomplete Applications: OHFA will perform a preliminary review of all developments to determine whether or not a complete application has been submitted. If it is determined that OHFA cannot evaluate the proposal based on the information provided, the application will be returned to the applicant along with a written listing of the application's deficiencies.

3. CHDO Competitive Operating Grant Program

Goal: To provide operating support to organizations to continue developing affordable housing.

Total Funds Available: The budget for this competitive program will be set at $500,000. The maximum grant award is $50,000 per organization, and the grant award must not exceed 50 percent of the organization's total operating budget.

If any portion of this allocation remains uncommitted after the application deadline, those funds may be reallocated to the PY 2015 HDAP Program.

Grant Terms: Grants will be written for a 12-month period starting on or after July 1, 2015.

Eligible Applicants: The organization must be a state-designated CHDO for a development that is partially funded by the State of Ohio's 15% HOME funds set-aside and has not yet met the "project completion" definition. Project completion means that the organization completed all the necessary title transfer requirements and construction work; the project complies with the requirements of this part (including the property standards under §92.251); the organization received its final drawdown of HOME funds for the project; and the project completion information has been entered into the disbursement and information system established by HUD, except that with respect to rental housing project completion, for the purposes of §92.502(d) of this part, project completion occurs upon construction completion and before occupancy.

Eligible HOME-CHDO Operating Activities: Activities including, but not limited to, the following are eligible HOME-CHDO Operating Grant activities**:**

- Administrative and support staff costs, including fringe benefits, for staff directly involved in housing development activities.

- Non-staff administrative costs such as supplies, travel, equipment, space and maintenance, telephone equipment and service, postage, printing and duplicating, and staff and board training.

Ineligible HOME-CHDO Operating Activities:

- Operating costs incurred by a CHDO operating as a sub-recipient or contractor under the HOME program for a specific development.

- Pre-development costs such as engineering, architecture, options, marketing, market studies, etc.

- All activities related to administering the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program, Community Development Block Grant, Community Service Block Grant, or other local, State, or federal programs in which the CHDO acts as a sub-recipient.

4. Homeless Crisis Response Program

Goal: To prevent individuals and families from entering homelessness, provide for emergency shelter operations and rapidly move persons from homelessness to permanent housing.

The Homeless Crisis Response Program is divided into two components: 1) emergency shelter operations; and 2) homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities. This program has been designed to be consistent with the federal Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program.

Eligible Applicants: Funding is available to eligible nonprofit organizations and units of local government for emergency shelter activities, and to state-appointed nonprofit organizations and local units of government for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

Only one state-appointed organization per Homeless Planning Region is eligible to apply for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing funds on behalf of the region. To apply for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing funds, each region must have a collaborative, Regional Homeless Service Coordination Plan (regional plan). Regional plans should include agreed upon participant screening criteria, common assessment tools, and referral processes, and each participant in the region implementing the program must use the same forms.

Note: All agencies applying for emergency shelter funding must participate in this planning process and be listed in the Regional Homeless Service Coordination Plan to be eligible for emergency shelter funds.

Total Funds Available: SFY 2016 Ohio Housing Trust Funds (amount to be determined); approximately $5.2 million in Federal Emergency Solutions Grant funds.

Maximum Award Amounts:

Category	Maximum Award	Grant Period
Emergency Shelter:	$350,000 per shelter	2 Years
Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing	By formula allocation	1 or 2 Years

Note: Applicants may request more than the "Maximum Award" for emergency shelters listed above if the applicant submits a request to OCD by June 5, 2015, and OCD subsequently approves the request. The maximum award amounts may be lowered if the total funds available in PY 2015 for the Homeless Crisis Response Program are less than anticipated.

Funding Method:

Emergency Shelter Activities: Shelter programs currently funded by OCD are eligible to apply for funding based on their previous funding level. Shelter programs are eligible for renewal of 85 percent of their previous grant amount. The remaining 15 percent of the previous grant amount will be made available through a competitive evaluation based on the rating criteria below. For currently funded shelter programs, applicants may request up to 105% of its current funding level. Programs that received a cut in their last funding cycle may apply for their funding level prior to the cut. Changes to program design and capacity will be taken into consideration.

Emergency shelters not currently funded by OCD may apply competitively through the PY 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program application process. However, OCD advises that with homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing funds available through this program, OCD does not anticipate funding many, if any, new emergency shelters or shelter expansions.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Activities: Funding for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities will be available via an allocation methodology through state-appointed regional applicants. This formula allocation will assure at least minimum crisis

response funding levels are available for persons at imminent risk of homelessness or persons who are homeless in all areas of the state.

Eligible Activities:

Emergency Shelter*:

1. **Shelter Operations** - Operating funds to operate and staff an Emergency Shelter program and essential service costs to provide limited case management, goal planning, and permanent housing placement.

2. **Data Collection and Evaluation** - Costs associated with data collection/evaluation, including HMIS activities.

3. **General Administration** - General Administration funds limited to administration costs of the portion of the Homeless Crisis Response Program grant for Emergency Shelter activities.

   *For the purposes of this program, emergency shelters that restrict admission to domestic violence victims are not eligible for funding.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing:

1. **Homelessness Prevention –** Financial assistance including rental assistance; rental application fees; rental arrears; security and utility deposits; utility payments; moving cost assistance; and, in certain circumstances, motel and hotel vouchers. Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services, which includes case management; outreach and engagement; housing search and placement services; legal services; and credit repair, are also eligible.

2. **Rapid Re-housing** - Financial assistance including rental assistance; rental application fees; rental arrears; security and utility deposits; utility payments; moving cost assistance; and, in certain circumstances, motel and hotel vouchers. Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services, which includes case management; outreach and engagement; housing search and placement services; legal services; and credit repair, are also eligible.

3. **Data Collection and Evaluation** - Costs include appropriate costs associated with operating a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for collecting and reporting data required by HUD and OCD. Eligible costs include:
   - purchasing HMIS software and/or user licenses (non-balance of state areas);
   - leasing or purchasing needed computer equipment for providers, costs associated with data collection;
   - entry and analysis; and
   - staffing associated with operating the HMIS, including training.

   HMIS activities that are ineligible include:
   - planning and developing an HMIS;
   - developing new software systems;
   - contracting for program evaluation; and
   - replacing state and local government funding for an existing HMIS.

4. **Administrative Costs** – Funds may be used for grant fund accounting, preparing reports, obtaining program audits, similar costs related to administering the grant during the grant's work completion period and staff salaries associated with these administrative costs. Administrative costs also include training for staff who will

administer the program or case managers who will serve program participants, as long as this training is directly related to learning about HCRP.

Matching Requirements: Emergency shelter applicants must provide at least $1 in local public or private resources for every two dollars in Homeless Crisis Response Program funds (a ratio of 1:2 other funds to Homeless Program funds). Grants or loans from the Ohio Development Services Agency cannot be used as match. No match is required for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

Threshold Requirements:

- Proposals for emergency shelter activity funds must be included in the Regional Homeless Service Coordination Plan to be considered for funding.
- Applicants must be participating in the appropriate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and meet minimum data quality standards. If not a current OCD grantee, applicants must agree to participate if awarded funding.
- Proposals must include documentation verifying the commitment of sufficient matching funds to meet the match requirements.
- All programs must be targeted to individuals or families who are literally homeless or at risk of homelessness by federal definition, as appropriate. Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs must be targeted at individuals and families below 30 percent of area median income. Income verification for homelessness prevention is required at intake. Income verification for rapid re-housing is required 90 days after initial intake unless the applicant demonstrates that various standards, as determined by OCD, are met.
- For Youth Shelters, the parent organization must be accredited by a recognized accreditation organization such as Council on Accreditation (COA), Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), or The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) or be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to provide emergency shelter for youth.
- Only complete applications, including all essential exhibits, will be reviewed.

Rating Criteria: OCD will rate applications based on the following criteria:

1. Proposal Content The proposal narrative must clearly identify the problem to be addressed, population group(s) to be served and the activities to be undertaken, described in detail. Applicants must include an outline of intended goals and outcomes, including the projected impact on local homeless needs. If the project is designed to serve targeted subpopulations, applicants should address how the needs of other populations are being met within the community.

2. Outcomes: Based on data entered into HMIS, applicants must demonstrate acceptable performance. Specific performance measures for emergency shelters include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - Number of persons and households served
    - Occupancy rates (viewed in relation to shelter's role in community's strategy to end homelessness)
    - Average length of stay
    - Percentage of leavers exiting into permanent housing
    - Percentage of leavers employed at exit
    - Percentage of leavers receiving at least one source of non-cash benefit at exit
    - Number of households provided rapid re-housing assistance

    For new applicants applying competitively, determinations in this category will be based on the extent to which the program design is clearly defined, built on evidence-based practice and likely to achieve stated outcomes.

Specific performance measures for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Number of persons and households served.
- Length of time to house
- Number/percentage of households that return to homelessness
- Other factors under development (to be outlined in application)

3. Collaboration: Applicants should demonstrate strategic partnerships that would strengthen the program model's success. Examples of partnerships could include referring agencies, supportive service providers, local government agencies, mainstream service providers and existing rapid re-housing funds. Applications including letters of support and detailed partner agency agreements from these partners will rate higher than those only providing narratives.

4. Targeting and Need: For all programs, applicants must demonstrate the method used for determining current demand for services in their community.
   - Emergency shelter applicants must describe their plan for diverting individuals and families from shelter stays where possible and appropriate.
   - Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing applicants must describe their targeting method for determining which families and individuals are most appropriately served with this program, including self-sufficiency criteria to determine which families and individuals are likely to experience homelessness without intervention services.

5. Capacity: Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which the applicant demonstrates the organization's ability to implement proposed activities. Items taken into consideration include the organization's history and descriptions of key staff involved in the project.

6. HMIS Data Quality: All applicants are required to meet HUD minimum HMIS data requirements and quality standards to be considered for funding. To earn points in this criterion, applicant's data quality must exceed minimum standards consisting of, but not limited to, null and missing values, according to a point scale detailed in the funding application. OCD will also consider the number/percentage of persons entered into HMIS as "anonymous" using the standard adopted by the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care or the corresponding entitlement HMIS implementation, as appropriate. Additional performance measures will be detailed in the application.

7. Effectiveness: Applicants should demonstrate how the program is cost effective.

Note: OCD will establish rating criteria that measure consistency with local continua of care standards for entitlement areas and with Balance of State Continuum of Care standards to the extent possible. Emergency Shelters will be expected to demonstrate effectively coordinating rapid re-housing resources.

Regional Assessment and Reallocation Option:

Based on requests from Regions and partner agencies within the Regions, OCD may consider a limited number of Homeless Planning Regions for participation in a regional assessment and reallocation phase-in process. In this process, Homeless Planning Regions and homeless services providers would agree to conduct in-depth assessments of regional resources and service gaps. Based on the regional assessment results, participating regions could have the opportunity to recommend reallocating OCD homeless program funds (emergency shelter, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing) within the planning region.

OCD will be developing the criteria to be used for such a determination. Participating regions would agree to work closely with OCD in designing and executing the regional assessment. OCD would reserve the right to accept or deny reallocation recommendations.

Regions interested in participating in this option will be required to contact OCD by a date determined and disseminated by OCD.

Program Period: Awards will be granted for 12-month or 24-month grant periods, as determined by OCD. Grantees must complete their program according to the following deadlines: (1) All activities must be completed by the end of the 12th or 24th month, as determined by the work completion date identified in the grant agreement; (2) All drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD within one month of the work completion deadline; (3) All funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted to OCD within two months of the work completion deadline.

Reduction of Grant Request: OCD reserves the right to award grants at amounts lower than requested in the application or less than the amount listed in the allocation amounts provided with the application materials.

Budget Amendments: For purposes of this program, a formal budget amendment is only necessary when a grantee wishes to transfer funds into a restricted budget category (administration). Budget amendments not relating to funds in a restricted category are exempted from the standard 10 percent or $5,000 requirement.

Application Submission: Applicants must submit applications for the Homeless Crisis Response Program by 11:59 p.m. on July 1, 2015.

Grant Award: Approximately four months after submission, immediately after State Controlling Board approval.

5. Supportive Housing Program

Goal: To facilitate moving homeless persons to permanent housing by providing transitional housing as well as provide long-term permanent supportive housing to homeless persons with disabilities.

Total Funds Available: SFY 2016 Ohio Housing Trust Funds (amount to be determined).

Maximum Award Amounts:

Category	Maximum Award	Grant Period
Transitional Housing:	$480,000	Two Years
Permanent Supportive Housing:	$300,000	Two Years

Note: Requests in excess of the "Maximum Award" listed above may be made if a waiver is submitted to OCD by May 8, 2015, and approved. The maximum award amounts may be lowered if the total funds available for the Supportive Housing Program in SFY 2016 are less than anticipated.

Funding Method: Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funds will be awarded to eligible transitional housing and permanent supportive housing providers on a competitive basis. While the SHP is a competitive program, preference in the review process will be given to programs currently funded by OCD that are meeting OCD's performance standards for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible nonprofit organizations, units of local government, public housing authorities and consortia of any eligible applicants are eligible to apply for funding. The priority for transitional housing is projects for facilities that either serve homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, or persons re-entering a community from an institution or in recovery from substance abuse or that comply with a national best practice or research supported design. The priority for permanent supportive housing is projects that meet the housing needs of homeless families and individuals with disabilities using a housing first methodology.

Eligible Activities:

Transitional Housing:
Facility-based or sponsor-based program models, either single-site or scattered-site.

- Rental payments to support operating transitional housing projects designed to place clients in permanent housing within 4 to 24 months. Preference for programs with an average length of stay less than 12 months.

- Supportive Services linked to transitional housing programs that are designed to help program participants attain permanent housing and housing stability in a 4- to 24-month period. NOTE: No more than 20 percent of Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars may be spent on supportive services; therefore, please keep supportive services requests to an absolute minimum.

- Operating expenses to support the recurring costs of operating a transitional housing program. This includes both staff and non-staff costs associated with operating the program, such as front door staff.

- Administrative expenses such as accounting for grant funds, preparing reports, obtaining program audits, similar costs related to administering the grant after the award, and staff salaries associated with these administrative costs. Administrative costs also include training for staff who will administer the program or case managers who will serve program participants, as long as this training is directly related to learning about the Supportive

Housing Program. **NOTE**: Administrative expenses are now a standalone budget item and *should not* be rolled into other line items as in years past.

- Data Collection and Evaluation including costs associated with data collection and reporting through the use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) or a comparable client-level database. Eligible costs include purchasing HMIS software and/or user licenses; leasing or purchasing needed computer equipment for providers and the central server; costs associated with data collection, entry, and analysis; and staffing associated with operating the HMIS, including training.

- Activities are limited to households that are homeless according to the HUD definition, excluding category 3, with incomes at or below 35 percent Area Median Income (AMI).

Permanent Supportive Housing:

- Operating expenses linked to permanent supportive housing programs for homeless persons with disabilities targeted primarily to homeless individuals with mental illness, chemical dependency, AIDS/HIV or other permanent disabilities. Permanent Supportive Housing programs currently funded with SHP funds by OCD may apply for funding for currently funded activities.

- Bridge Funding, including first month's rent, security deposits and utility payments, designed to place homeless households into Permanent Supportive Housing units in which the household is able to remain in the same housing after receiving these services. This limited bridge funding will help eligible persons who are transitioning into permanent supportive housing obtain housing while awaiting a permanent housing subsidy. This assistance is time limited with the assurance that future housing/rental assistance is expected and shall not be used for persons currently in permanent supportive housing.

- Administrative expenses such as for grant funds, preparing reports, obtaining program audits, similar costs related to administering the grant after the award and staff salaries associated with these administrative costs. Administrative costs also include training for staff who will administer the program or case managers who will serve program participants, as long as this training is directly related to learning about the Supportive Housing Program. **NOTE**: Administrative expenses are now a standalone budget item and *should not* be rolled into other line items as in years past.

- Data Collection and Evaluation including costs associated with data collection and reporting through the use of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) or a comparable client-level database. Eligible costs include purchasing HMIS software and/or user licenses; leasing or purchasing needed computer equipment for providers and the central server; costs associated with data collection, entry, and analysis; and staffing associated with operating the HMIS, including training.

- Activities are limited to households that are homeless according to the HUD definition, excluding category 3, with incomes at or below 35 percent Area Median Income (AMI).

Matching Requirements: Applicants must provide at least $1 in local public or private resources for every $2 in Supportive Housing Program funds for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing (a ratio of 1:2 other funds to SHP funds). Grants or loans from the Ohio Development Services Agency cannot be used as match.

Threshold Requirements:

- Proposals must include documentation that the program(s) is supported by the local Continuum of Care (CoC). Agencies in communities that do not have a formal CoC, must

explain the efforts the agency is making to coordinate with other agencies in the community to establish a formal CoC. Applications that do not include written verification that the agency is an active participant in its local CoC or equivalent organization, as appropriate, or whose project is not supported by the local CoC may not be reviewed. Please note documented support from the HCRP region lead is not required.

- Applicants must be participating in the appropriate Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or, if not a current OCD grantee, agree to participate if awarded funding.

- Proposals must include documentation verifying sufficient matching funds commitment to meet the match requirements for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing programs.

- All program activities must be targeted at people who are homeless according to the HUD definition, excluding category 3.

- Applications must be complete and include essential information and exhibits.

Rating Criteria: OCD will rate competitive applications on the following criteria.

1. Administrative Capacity (10 points): Extent to which the applicant demonstrates the ability to successfully implement the proposed activities. Items to be considered include the organization's history and descriptions of key staff involved in the project. Past monitoring visits may be taken into account.

2. Program Design (15 points): Extent to which proposal is well designed and is likely to accomplish the stated objectives and proposed outcomes.

3. Targeting (10 points): The extent to which the project provides income eligibility requirements restricting participation to households up to 35 percent of Area Median Income and the agency will document that persons served by the program are homeless. Facility-based transitional housing programs should be able to demonstrate that they are targeting harder-to-serve populations including; victims of domestic violence, persons with severe and persistent mental illness, persons re-entering a community from an institution or in recovery from substance abuse or that comply with a national best practice or research-supported design.

4. Need (10 points): Extent to which the project demonstrates through local COC data or other statistics that a significant gap would exist in the continuum if the program does not receive funding.

5. HMIS Data Quality/Outcomes (30 points): All applicants are required to meet HUD-minimum HMIS data requirements and quality standards to be considered for funding. To earn points in this criterion, applicant's data quality must meet or exceed minimum standards consisting of, but not limited to, null and missing values, according to a point scale detailed in the funding application. OCD will also consider the number/percentage of persons entered into HMIS as "anonymous" using the standard adopted by the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care or the corresponding entitlement HMIS implementation, as appropriate. Based on data entered into HMIS, applicants must demonstrate success in helping homeless persons achieve permanent destinations. Additional performance measures will be detailed in the program application.

6. Program Feasibility (15 points): Extent to which the proposal is reasonable and cost effective based on request amount, need, proposed outcomes, historic funding levels and amount requested.

7. Budget Accuracy/Reasonableness (10 points): Extent to which budget figures are accurate, consistent and reasonable.

Program Period: Grantees must complete their program according to the following deadlines: (1) All activities must be completed by the end of the 24th month, as determined by the work completion date identified in the grant agreement; (2) All drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD within one month of the work completion deadline; (3) All funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted to OCD within two months of the work completion deadline.

Reduction of Grant Request: OCD reserves the right to award grants at amounts lower than requested in the application.

Application Submission: The Supportive Housing Program application submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. on June 3, 2015.

Grant Award: Approximately four months after submission, immediately after State Controlling Board approval.

6. Housing Assistance Grant Program

Goal: To promote affordable housing opportunities and improve housing conditions for low-income families and individuals.

Total Funds Available: SFY 2016 Ohio Housing Trust Funds (amount to be determined).

Eligible Applicants: Private, nonprofit organizations incorporated with Ohio's Secretary of State and granted 501.c.3 status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Maximum Award Amounts:

Maximum two-year awards for Emergency Home Repair/Handicapped Accessibility Modifications is $500,000; and $150,000 for Down Payment Assistance/Homebuyer Education. Maximum amounts may be changed based on Total Funds Available. Requests in excess of $500,000 for Emergency Home Repair/Handicapped Accessibility may be made if a waiver is submitted to OCD by the date stated in the application and for the reasons stated in the SFY 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program application instructions.

Recommended Request Amounts:

Funding requests must be cost effective and reasonable based on community need, historic funding levels from OCD, cost per household served, cost per outcome, etc. OCD will provide guidance on recommended request amounts in the PY 2015 Housing Assistance Grant Program application. OCD reserves the right to make awards at levels less than requested.

Eligible Activities:

- Emergency home repair/accessibility modifications that, if not corrected, could pose a threat to the health or safety of the occupants. Assistance is limited to $7,500 per unit. Income targeting to households at or below 50 percent Area Median Income (AMI).

- Down Payment Assistance – Assistance limited to $3,000 (limited to 3 percent of purchase price plus out-of-pocket expenses). Targeted to households at or below 65 percent AMI with a preference to persons at or below 50 percent AMI.

- Homebuyer Education – pre- and post-purchase counseling must be tied to Down Payment Assistance activity. Targeted to households at or below 65 percent AMI with a preference to households at or below 50 percent AMI.

Matching Requirements: Each $2 in Housing Assistance Grant Program funds must be matched with $1 in cash and/or in-kind resources. Grants or loans from the Ohio Development Services Agency cannot be used as match.

Threshold Requirements:

- Proposals must include documentation verifying sufficient matching funds commitment to meet the match requirements.

- Proposals must be for eligible activities consistent with Housing Assistance Grant Program definitions and guidelines.

- Applications must be complete and include essential information and exhibits.

Rating Criteria: OCD will rate applications based on the following criteria.

1) Program Impact (10 points): Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which proposal has a direct relationship to eligible categories in the Housing Assistance Grant Program.

2) Need (15 points): Extent to which the project fills a gap in available housing activities that cannot be provided through other means and, for Emergency Home Repair/Accessibility Modifications projects, evidence that CDBG funds are not available.

3) Income targeting (10 points): Extent to which the project serves low-income persons with household income at or below 50 percent of AMI for Emergency Home Repair/Accessibility Modifications and/or 65 percent AMI (with a preference of 50 percent AMI) for Down Payment Assistance/Homebuyer Counseling.

4) Organization History (10 points): Extent to which the applicant demonstrates the ability to successfully implement the proposed activities.

5) Staff Background/Experience (10 points): Projects will be evaluated based on the degree to which resumes or position descriptions are provided for key staff involved in the project and demonstrate sufficient background and experience to successfully implement the project.

6) Program Feasibility (15 points): The extent to which the project is reasonable and cost-effective based on the request amount, cost per housing unit, etc.

7) Program Coordination (10 points): Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which documentation demonstrating coordination and support for the project or activity is provided by organizations involved in the project.

8) Project Design/Outcomes (15 points): The extent to which projects are well designed, clearly presented, and are likely to produce or retain housing stock and accomplish the stated objectives and proposed outcomes

9) Budget Accuracy/Reasonableness (5 points): Extent to which budget figures are accurate, consistent and reasonable.

Program Period: The program year will begin March 1, 2016, provided sufficient Ohio Housing Trust funds are available. Grantees must complete their program according to the following deadlines for two year grants: (1) All activities must be completed by the end of the 24th month, as determined by the work completion date identified in the grant agreement; (2) All drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD within one month of the work completion deadline; (3) All funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted to OCD within two months of the work completion deadline.

Reduction of Grant Request: OCD reserves the right to award competitive grants at amounts lower than requested in the application.

Application Submission: The Housing Assistance Grant Program application submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2016.

Grant Award: Approximately 8 weeks after submission and following Controlling Board Approval.

7. Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program

Goal: Through the federal Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program, OCD provides eligible nonprofit organizations or units of local government with funds to devise long-term, comprehensive strategies to meet the housing and supportive service needs of persons with AIDS or HIV-related diseases.

Total Funds: Approximately $1.2 million of federal HOPWA will be available.

Eligible Applicants: Private, nonprofit organizations incorporated with Ohio's Secretary of State and granted 501.c.3 status by the Internal Revenue Service; and units of local government.

Grant Ceiling: The maximum grant request is based on the percentage of cases of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS within the project's service area when compared to the balance of state (areas outside the Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland service areas). Figures promulgated by the Ohio Department of Health are used for this calculation. An adjustment factor of 1.10 is used to account for increased need. Applicants are encouraged to apply for an amount less than the maximum amount. OCD may consider requests for amounts that exceed the maximum amount; however, written approval from OCD must be obtained.

Eligible Activities:

- Short-term rental, mortgage, and/or utility assistance;
- Acquiring, rehabilitating or constructing permanent housing;
- Tenant-based rental assistance;
- Operating a community residence;
- Permanent housing placement;
- Referral to drug and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling;
- Limited case management;
- Respite care;
- Food/nutritional services;
- Activities of daily living;
- Day care;
- Transportation;
- General administration; and
- Housing information services.

Matching Requirements: The applicant must match the requested amount of HOPWA funds at a minimum ratio of 1:1.

Rating System Principles:

(1) Degree to which the proposal meets the needs of the target population;
(2) Evidence of local resource coordination and need for gap funding resources;
(3) Evidence of local support;
(5) Financial stability/management and applicant/administering agency stability; and
(6) Applicant's ability to administer the program/administrative capacity.

Rating Criteria: OCD will rate the applications based on the following selected criteria:

(1) Need (15 points): Projects will be evaluated based on the degree to which they meet the unmet needs of the community to be served by the program; need of the area's population for HOPWA eligible programming and services as described in the Consolidated Plan or the Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS); and extent to which the proposal is consistent with local needs and fits into a community-wide strategy addressing those needs.

(2) Program Design (20 points): Projects will be evaluated based on the type and quality of proposed activities: emphasis on housing and housing-related activities, especially operating a community residence providing long-term housing; outreach and referral systems; criteria for selecting residents for housing and services; method for verifying client eligibility and ensuring that client needs cannot be met through other programs; case management plan and how that plan will help meet the client's needs; measures ensuring that clients receive the appropriate type, delivery and level of service; and rational for discontinuing or limiting services.

(3) Coordination (20 points): Projects will be evaluated on the degree to which they coordinate with other mainstream organizations in the community to meet the housing and service needs of persons with AIDS; and extent of coordination with units of local governments, local health departments or other organizations serving persons with AIDS or related diseases.

(4) Financial Management (25 points): Projects will be evaluated based on their financial management practices; internal control procedures; reasonableness of proposed budget; and amount and diversity of other funds committed.

(5) Administrative Capacity (20 points): Projects will be evaluated on the organization's staff capability to implement the proposed project: organization's history, including its experience in implementing the proposed activities; key staff's relevant educational background, professional certifications, licenses and work experience; and performance on current grant (if applicable).

Program Period: Grantees must complete their program according to the following deadlines: (1) All activities must be completed by the end of the 12th month; (2) All drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 13th month; (3) All funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 14th month.

Reduction of Grant Request: OCD reserves the right to award competitive grants at amounts lower than requested in the application.

Application Submission: The HOPWA application submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2016.

Grant Award: Approximately seven (7) weeks after submission.

Community and Economic Development

Community Development Program:

- ***Community Development Allocation Grants***
- ***Neighborhood Revitalization Grants***
- ***Downtown Revitalization Grants***
- ***Critical Infrastructure Grants***

Economic Development Loan and Public Infrastructure Grant Program

- ***Economic Development Loan Program***
- ***Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program***
- ***Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program***

1. Community Development Program

Goal: To provide communities with a flexible housing and community development resource that can be used to address locally identified needs that are eligible Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) activities and qualify under the national objective of Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) Benefit or Elimination of Slum and Blight.

The program will include funds for the Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, and Critical Infrastructure competitive set-aside programs.

Neighborhood Revitalization projects are designed to improve the quality of life, livability and functionality of distressed areas and neighborhoods to carry out a comprehensive strategy of revitalization. This includes, but is not limited to, projects designed to stabilize and enhance residential neighborhoods or activities that support redeveloping Brownfield sites (adjacent to low-moderate residential neighborhoods) or commercial (non-central business district) or industrial sites (excluding direct loans to businesses).

Downtown Revitalization projects are designed to improve the Central Business Districts, aid in the elimination of slums or blight, create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities for LMI households. This includes, but is not limited to, projects designed to improve blighted streetscapes, rehabilitate deteriorated building facades, and address code violations in central business districts.

Critical Infrastructure projects are designed to assist applicant communities with high-priority infrastructure improvements. This includes roads, storm drainage, fire protection facilities, and other public facilities projects. Water and sanitary sewer projects not eligible for the Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) may also be considered for Critical Infrastructure program funding.

Total Funds: Approximately $20.2 million in CDBG funds will be made available. Fifty (50) percent of Ohio's total Community Development Block Grant allocation will be committed to the Community Development Program. Of that amount, 60 percent will be allocated to the Community Development Allocation Program and 40 percent will be allocated to the PY 2015 competitive Community Development programs, including the Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, and Critical Infrastructure Programs. Funding selections will be based upon a comprehensive application review submitted for all Community Development Program competitive programs.

Application Guidelines: Communities may apply for the Community Development Allocation Program annually. Communities may have three (3) open competitive set-aside program awards open at a time.

Communities with no open awards may apply for up to three (3) competitive set-asides annually. A community's eligibility to apply for PY 2015 competitive set-aside programs is reduced, based upon its existing open competitive set-aside programs; for example, a community awarded one (1) PY 2014 competitive set-aside is only eligible to apply for two (2) PY 2015 competitive set-asides.

Communities may apply for multiple combinations of competitive set-asides. Please note, applicants are limited to a maximum of three (3) total competitive applications. See table below for maximum annual competitive applications, based upon set-aside program and applicant type:

Competitive Set-Aside Program	County	Direct City
Neighborhood Revitalization Program	2	2
Downtown Revitalization Program	2	1
Critical Infrastructure Program	2	2

Counties may apply for up to two (2) of the Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, or Critical Infrastructure competitive set-asides on behalf of different local jurisdictions (cities, villages, or townships) annually.

Direct cities may apply for up to two (2) Neighborhood Revitalization and Critical Infrastructure competitive set-asides annually; however, direct cities are limited to one (1) Downtown Revitalization competitive set-aside. Jurisdictions awarded PY 2013 or PY 2014 Downtown Revitalization competitive set-aside program funds may not reapply for PY 2015 Downtown Revitalization funds unless the previous grant has been monitored and significant monitoring issues resolved. Unsuccessful Downtown Revitalization Program applicants may reapply, and successful communities may apply for alternative set-aside programs.

A project cannot be included in multiple competitive set-aside program applications, and funds from one competitive set-aside program cannot be used as leverage for another competitive application. Similarly, competitive program funds from previous fiscal years cannot be used as leverage for a community's PY 2015 application.

Administrative capacity will be considered for multiple grant awards for a single applicant.

A. Community Development Allocation Grants

Total Funds: Sixty (60) percent of the Community Development Program allocation.

Allocation Calculation Principles: Funding allocations for communities are determined by the following formula:

$$\left[\frac{\text{Number of LMI Individuals in the Community}}{\text{Total Number of LMI Individuals in Non-entitlement Areas}}\right] \times \text{Amount of CDBG Program Funds allocated for Community Development}$$

A grant floor of $75,000 will be set to ensure adequate funding for eligible applications. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides the number of LMI persons and used the 2006 - 2010 American Community Survey Low/Moderate Income Summary Data (updated in 2014) as the basis for estimating LMI figures. The funding allocation calculation will be completed for all non-entitlement cities and counties. "Direct cities" are cities with a total population of 15,000 or greater and a LMI population of at least 30 percent or greater. Total population was determined based upon the 2010 Census.

Counties that include a city that received a direct allocation for the 2010, 2011, and PY 2012 program years, will be required to undertake at least one project in that city in PY 2013, 2014, and 2015. The county will also be encouraged to apply for competitive programs on the city's behalf.

The funding allocation for cities that do not meet the direct city criteria will be awarded to the county of jurisdiction. All communities within the county are encouraged to collaborate with the county for project funding consideration.

Direct City status will be re-evaluated for PY 2016. Total population will be determined based upon the 2010 Census. LMI percent will be based on the 2006-2010 American Community Survey Low/Moderate-Income Summary Data. Cities that no longer retain Direct City status will receive funding through the county of jurisdiction and will require a project commitment.

Waiver or Surrender of Funds: A county or city may choose to surrender all or part of its funding allocation to the State. Appropriate legislative action must be taken in this regard by the local government, and a copy of this action must be submitted to OCD on or before the Community Development Program application deadline. In the event some or all funds are not

committed to eligible activities in the Community Development Allocation Program application by the submission date, those funds will be forfeited.

A city or county may opt to use its Community Development Allocation Program funds as local match for CDBG competitive programs. This can be accomplished through the respective competitive application process. The project or activity must be identified as an activity in the Community Development application, even if the competitive program funds have not yet been awarded. Communities must select alternative projects for Allocation program funds in the event the community does not receive a competitive award(s). Funds are not guaranteed, and delays due to failure to select alternative projects can result in losing Community Development Allocation Program funds.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Under the PY 2015 Ohio State CDBG Program, the non-entitlement counties and small cities listed in Table 9 below (identified as cities by the Secretary of State as of January 1, 2015) will be able to apply for funds based entirely on the number of low- and moderate-income persons residing in the eligible community.

The following categories of communities will not receive funding under the Community Development Allocation Program:

1) HUD Entitlement Cities (35);

2) HUD Urban Counties (10); and

3) Units of general local government with more than 50 percent of their population in an urban county.

Adjacent cities and/or counties may pool Community Development Allocation Program funds for a common project(s), and may designate one unit of government or a recognized regional organization to administer the program on behalf of the participating units of government. A legal agreement must be executed by all parties involved, and prior approval must be secured from OCD.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities are outlined in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. To meet its community development needs, a Community Development Allocation Program grantee can select among those eligible activities.

Community Development Allocation Program funds cannot be used for housing activities, with the exception of Home Repair. OCD has funds set aside for these purposes through its Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program. In the event a community applies, but is not funded for a CDBG-eligible housing activity though the CHIP program in the current or previous year's application cycle, OCD will consider a community's request to waive this requirement and use Community Development Allocation Program funds for other CDBG-eligible housing activities. Waiver consideration will be based on the community's CHIP application competitiveness along with demonstrated administrative capacity to administer a housing program. Communities must select alternative projects for Community Development Allocation Program funds in the event OCD does not approve a waiver request. Waivers are not guaranteed, and delays due to failure to select alternative projects can result in losing Community Development Allocation Program funds.

Community Development Allocation Program grantees are not allowed to use their program funds to capitalize or re-capitalize local Revolving Loan Funds or acquire property for land banking for future new housing development construction.

Application Timing:

Application Submission:	June 26, 2015
Grant Award:	September 1, 2015

Holdover Option: Prior to the PY 2015 application submission deadline and upon written request from the grantee's CEO, OCD will holdover a grantee's entire Community Development Allocation for PY 2015 for a period of one year only. However, funds for both PY 2015 and PY 2016 must be spent during the PY 2016 period, and projects must meet all PY 2015 program guidelines. Grantees will be expected to have projects planned for PY 2016, and cannot be guaranteed funding in PY 2016. The public hearing requirements for PY 2015 still apply and must be fulfilled prior to the holdover request. Communities electing to holdover their entire PY 2015 allocation may not submit an application for PY 2015 Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, or Critical Infrastructure Program funds.

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with, or prior to, submitting a funding application to the State for a specific community development project.

Community Development Implementation Strategy: Communities receiving funds from OCD are require to conduct long-term planning. Prior to PY 2013, OCD required Community Development Program applicants to conduct a Community Assessment Strategy (CAS) to qualify projects for CDBG funding. The CAS required applicants to evaluate public facilities' condition in low- and moderate-income (LMI) areas to assist in selecting and prioritizing projects. OCD redesigned the Community Development Program in PY 2013 to encourage collaboration within eligible applicant communities, and include funding for Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, and Critical Infrastructure Competitive Set-Asides. The Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS) replaced the CAS as a tool to facilitate communication with stakeholders in eligible applicant communities. The CDIS will supplement the required Citizen Participation process in odd years starting in PY 2015, provide a format for disseminating information about the Community Development, Economic Development, and Residential Public Infrastructure programs, and assist with identifying and prioritizing potential funding opportunities. The CDIS is required for application to the PY 2015 and PY 2016 Community Development, Economic Development, and Residential Public Infrastructure Grant programs.

Programmatic Funding Guidelines:

Administrative Costs: Grantees may use up to 20 percent of the total grant for general administration, implementation, and Fair Housing costs. General administration costs include citizen participation, application preparation, grant agreement, environmental review, drawing down funds and overall recordkeeping, reporting, audit(s) and closeout, program compliance and performance.

Engineering, architectural and legal service costs, which are related to activities undertaken with CDBG funds, can be charged to the specific activity line item budget.

Low- and Moderate-Income (LMI) benefit: Regardless of which national objective a local grantee intends to meet, the program's overall benefit to persons from LMI persons shall be at least 51 percent, excluding general administration. The 51 percent overall benefit requirement applies to all jurisdictions that receive a Community Development Allocation Program, regardless of the administering entity.

In determining whether an activity will actually benefit LMI persons, OCD will consider completed activity's net effect. Thus, an activity located in a LMI area, while generally a primary consideration, does not conclusively demonstrate that the activity benefits LMI persons. An activity that serves an area delineated and justified by the grantee, where most of the residents are LMI persons, will meet the LMI standard.

Communities may request a waiver to use more than 49 percent of the funds for activities that qualify under the slum and blight national objective. Waiver requests must be submitted to OCD with the application.

Public Service Activities: Community Development Allocation funds can be used for public service activities as long as the proposed activity is a new service, or a quantifiable increase in the existing service level. Communities may use no more than 15 percent of the grant funds, for eligible public service activities. OCD will no longer grant waiver requests that exceed the 15 percent cap.

Planning Activities: Community Development Allocation Program funds can be used for planning activities related to eligible CDBG projects. Planning activities will count towards the grantee's maximum project cap. In order to qualify for funding, planning activities must meet the following requirements:

1. The planning being undertaken must be for an eligible CDBG activity;

2. The planning activity must specifically identify the community's low- and moderate-income needs or slum and blight needs;

3. The planning activity must produce a tangible product (e.g., report or historical inventory) for OCD to review;

4. The planning activity can be undertaken only for activities that, upon implementation, meet at least one of the three national objectives;

5. The planning activity must further the State of Ohio's investment objectives; and

6. The planning activity's product should be used to further develop and design future applications to meet local community and economic development needs.

Communities may use no more than 10 percent or $10,000, whichever is less, for eligible planning activities. Communities with RLF accounts will be required to use RLF funds to undertake proposed planning activities. If a community's RLF account balance is insufficient to cover the proposed planning activity cost, the community may apply for Allocation funds to cover the shortfall. OCD will no longer grant waiver requests to exceed the 10 percent/$10,000 cap.

Home Repair Activities: All program delivery and other soft costs related to work on a specific unit meeting a national objective must be paid for in one of two ways: (a) these costs may be charged to the activity budget (unit), or (b) these costs may be charged to administration. All program delivery or soft costs associated with projects that do not meet a national objective must be charged to administration. Eligible soft costs for the CDBG Program are defined at 24 CFR Part 570.202(b)(9).

Home Repair activities must be implemented in accordance with Ohio's Housing Rehabilitation Handbook. Grantees must develop and adopt a local Policies and Procedures Manual. Policy Notice OCD 13-01 provides guidelines for finance mechanisms for all OCD funds. The policy notice can be found at http://development.ohio.gov/files/cs/OCD%2013-01%20Finance%20Mechanism.pdf.

Fair Housing: Communities are required to include a Fair Housing activity as part of the PY 2015 Community Development Program application. The proposed program should cover the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. A Fair Housing activity can be treated as part of the general administrative budget, but Fair Housing, planning (except planning as an activity discussed below) and administrative costs cannot exceed 20 percent of the total grant amount. If a community chooses not to fund a Fair Housing activity with CDBG funds, the application must identify alternative funding sources that will be used. These funds must be committed whens submitting the application. Fair Housing can also be funded as a public service activity, although the community will be required to track beneficiaries to assure that at least 51 percent of the

beneficiaries are low- or moderate-income. Public service activities cannot exceed 15 percent of the total grant amount.

Any Fair Housing activity must include a specific program design with quantifiable, measurable services, and identified beneficiaries. Fair Housing does not count toward the number of allowable projects an applicant may undertake as outlined below. The state's Fair Housing requirements are described in the section entitled Local Government Certifications to the State.

Committing Community Development Allocation Program Funds: Grantees committing PY 2015 Community Development Allocation Program grant funds to PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) projects must reprogram the Community Development Allocation Program funds to other CDBG-eligible activities if the RPIG grant application is not approved by September 1, 2015. Allocation projects that entail major water or sanitary sewer improvements will be evaluated in a similar fashion to RPIG projects even if RPIG is not an identified funding source. Applicants must submit Ohio EPA Permit to Install or Plan Approval, if applicable and account for new household connections at the time of application.

All project dollars identified at the time of application must be firmly committed by the September 1, 2015 grant award. OCD will not consider an application for a subsequent grant request for another OCD-administered program (e.g. RPIG, Discretionary) after Allocation Program funding has been approved.

Number of Projects: The table below identifies the number of projects a Community Development Allocation Program applicant may undertake with CDBG funds based on the community's allocation funding level.

Allocation Funding Level	Projects Available
75,000 - 124,900	3
Above $125,000	4

The maximum number of projects for counties includes projects undertaken on a countywide basis in one or more subunits of government. A project is further defined as being activity- and location-specific. Administration and Fair Housing will not count toward the allowable number of projects. Demolition and clearance activities for the elimination of slum and blight will each count as one project regardless of the number of units or activity locations. An activity or activities undertaken in one Census area will count as one project. This may include targeted street, water, and sewer improvements. Activities undertaken in a well-defined area or neighborhood, which may span over one or more Census areas, will count as one project as long as the physical improvement is contiguous. The same type of activity (e.g., street improvements) undertaken in various subunits of government will count for as many projects as the number of communities in which the activity will be located, regardless of the number of contracts to be let by the grantee.

Grantees must justify how each activity meets a national objective.

Benefit Area Income Surveys: The grantee may qualify an activity based on an income survey of the activity's benefit (or service) area (completed according to the OCD Survey Methodology) which shows that at least 51 percent of the activity beneficiaries will be low- or moderate-income. The OCD Survey Methodology is posted on OCD's website at http://development.ohio.gov/files/cs/OCD_13-03.docm. The grantee is required to submit appropriate survey information to the State. Using an additional database will only be allowed with prior OCD approval.

Projects determined to be ineligible due to an incorrect survey methodology will result in forfeiting Community Development Allocation funds unless the survey can be corrected during the application review period. Communities are advised to seek technical assistance from OCD prior to the application submission deadline.

Urgent Need: Urgent Need is not an eligible national objective for the Community Development Allocation Program. OCD set funds aside for this purpose through its Target of Opportunity Grant Program.

Integrated Effort: Community Development Allocation Program grantees are encouraged to integrate any portion of their Community Development Allocation Program funds into any PY 2015 CDBG competitive set-aside programs for which they wish to apply.

Program Amendments: OCD must review and approve amendments before grantees implement the proposed change.

Situations Requiring an Amendment:

If the grantee is proposing a new activity, the executed grant agreement must be amended. In general, amendments will not be allowed for new activities.

1. An amendment to an executed grant agreement is required if there is a **change** in an approved project or activity scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries, anticipated accomplishment, or national objective. The grantee must provide a detailed work plan describing how the new activity will be completed by the December 31, 2016 deadline. A public hearing is required for a new activity and a 10-day public notice must precede the hearing.

2. An amendment to an executed grant agreement is required if the amount most recently approved by OCD for any previously approved activity is being increased or decreased by more than $5,000 or 10 percent, whichever is greater. These thresholds must be applied to both the activity from which the funds will be reduced and the activity to which the funds will be increased. Increases or decreases less than this threshold will be reconciled during the closeout process. The administration cap may not be exceeded. For competitive programs, 90 percent of outcomes must be met for an activity prior to requesting an amendment to reduce funds in the activity. Additional restrictions or exceptions may be included in the guidelines for each program.

3. Activity outcomes may also be reduced by up to 10 percent, without an amendment, as a result of moving funds from one activity to another in order to meet an increased demand in another activity. However, outcomes may not be reduced without an amendment for other reasons.

   OCD must review and approve amendments before grantees implement the proposed change.

Procedures for processing an amendment are as follows:

1. The Community submits request through the OCEAN online grants management system to OCD outlining the need to amend the approved grant.

2. If OCD determines that the amendment is warranted, an amendment will be created in OCEAN and the community will be notified. If the amendment request is not acceptable, a rejection letter will be sent.

Amendments may only be made through the 15th month of the program period.

Grantees may make only two amendments during the grant program period.

Program Extension: OCD must review and approve an extension before a grantee implements the extension. Extensions to the grant agreement may negatively impact a community's Administrative Capacity rating on future applications.

Situations Requiring an Extension:

1. An extension to an executed grant agreement is required if **all** work cannot be completed by the Work Completion Deadline on December 31, 2016.

2. The local Chief Executive Officer (CEO) must request a program extension in writing by October 31, two months before the December 31, 2016 work completion deadline. The request must contain a detailed explanation of why the extension is necessary.

3. OCD will consider approving extensions on a case-by-case basis. Communities requesting extensions must demonstrate attaining grant milestones; communities must submit a project's Environmental Review Release of Funds prior to February 15, 2016, and procure and execute the project's contract(s) by September 30, 2016. **Only one** extension will be granted. Extensions must be completed by June 30, 2017 or within six months of the December 31, 2016 Work Completion Date.

4. In rare cases, an extension longer than the six-month extension period will be considered if the CDBG Community Development Allocation Program funds are part of another grant such as a CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Grant or if the delay is because of the CDBG-funded activity's complexity and magnitude.

Procedures for processing an extension:

1. The community submits a request to OCD through the OCEAN online grants management system outlining the need to extend the grant period. The community's request should include the signature page from the project contract. This document must be signed and dated.

2. If the extension request is approved, OCD will approve the request in OCEAN and notify the community. If the extension request is not approved, OCD will mail a rejection letter.

Local Program Period: The Grant Agreement must be executed and returned to OCD within 10 business days of the date in the cover letter. Failure to do so will result in forfeiting the grantee's allocation. Community Development Allocation Program grantees will be allowed up to 18 months to have their PY 2015 programs ready for closeout, beginning with the general date set for all Community Development Allocation Program grant agreements. Within this allowable program period, the following deadlines must be met:

1. All work must be completed by the end of the 16th month.

2. All funds must be drawn down by the end of the 17th month. This means that all "Requests for Payment and Status of Funds Report" (Form DS5) must be submitted to OCD before the end of the last business day of the 17th month. OCD will not honor any drawdown requests after this date, unless the grantee requested an extension and OCD approved the extension.

3. Grantees must request and expend all funds and submit a final performance report to OCD by the end of the 18th month.

4. Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

NOTE: PY 2015 Community Development Program award recipients receiving Neighborhood Revitalization, Downtown Revitalization, and Critical Infrastructure funds will be allowed up to 26 months to have their PY 2015 program ready for closeout.

Application Submission: Applicants must submit applications to OCD by 11:59 p.m. on June 26, 2015, the application deadline. OCD may refuse any incomplete or late applications.

Communities that fail to meet the 11:59 p.m. deadline will forfeit their PY 2015 funding allocation.

Application Revisions: During the application review process, OCD may require a community to revise its application or supply additional materials before it can be approved. If necessary, communities will be allowed up to 30 days from OCD's initial contact to adequately address the application deficiencies. Community Development Allocation Program funding is not guaranteed; the applicant's administrative capacity, as demonstrated by the timely, complete, and accurate program application submission as well as past program performance will be considered when making funding determinations. Failure to demonstrate appropriate administrative capacity is grounds for forfeiting the community's PY 2015 Community Development allocation. Likewise, submitting an ineligible activity is grounds for immediately forfeiting a community's allocation.

Forfeited Community Development Allocation Program funds will be appropriated to the competitive set-aside programs.

Redistribution of Population: Under the Community Development Allocation Program, cities or villages whose boundaries lie in more than one county shall be considered part of the county with the largest portion of the city's or village's population.

1. For Cities or Villages split by one or more non-entitlement county boundaries, allocations to the counties will reflect the above mentioned population redistribution. Cities and Villages may only apply for funding to the county that contains the largest portion of their population.

2. Direct Cities split between an Urban (CDBG Entitlement) County and one or more non-entitlement counties will be eligible for Community Development Allocation Program funding only if the following criteria are met:

   a) The majority of their population resides within the CDBG non-entitlement county;

   b) Prior to April 30 of any program year, the city must submit in writing to OCD its intention to participate in the subsequent year's Ohio State CDBG Program; and

   c) Prior to April 30 of any program year, the city must submit to OCD written certification from the urban county that the city will not be a participant in the urban county's entitlement program during the upcoming year.

3. Cities or Villages split between an Urban County and one or more State Administrated Program counties will be eligible to participate in the county Community Development Allocation Program only if the following requirements are met:

   a) The majority of the city's or village's population resides within the CDBG non-entitlement county;

   b) Prior to April 30 of any program year, the city or village must submit to the non-entitlement county and to OCD written certification from the urban county that the city or village will not participate in the urban county's entitlement program during the upcoming year; and,

   c) Prior to April 30 of any program year, the city or village must submit a written statement to the Community Development Allocation county and to OCD, indicating that the city or village intends to be eligible for funding though the county's Community Development Allocation Program.

Table 9 PY 2015 Community Development Allocation Program Counties and Cities

County Program Grantees and Cities with Required Commitments

Adams County
Allen County
Ashland County
Ashtabula County
– Conneaut
Athens County
Auglaize County
Belmont County
Brown County
Carroll County
Champaign County
– Urbana
Clark County
Clinton County
– Wilmington
Columbiana County
– East Liverpool
– Salem
Coshocton County
– Coshocton
Crawford County
– Bucyrus
– Galion
Darke County
– Greenville
Defiance County
Delaware County
Erie County
Fairfield County
Fayette County
– Washington C.H.
Fulton County
Gallia County
Geauga County
Greene County
Guernsey County
– Cambridge
Hancock County
Hardin County
Harrison County
Henry County
Highland County
Hocking County
Holmes County
Huron County
Jackson County
Jefferson County
Knox County
Lawrence County
– Ironton
Licking County
Logan County
Morrow County
Muskingum County
Noble County
Lorain County
– North Ridgeville
Lucas County
– Maumee
Madison County
– London
Mahoning County
– Campbell
– Struthers
Marion County
Medina County
– Brunswick
Meigs County
Mercer County
– Celina
Miami County
Monroe County
Morgan County
Ottawa County
Paulding County
Perry County
Pickaway County
– Circleville
Pike County
Portage County
– Ravenna
Preble County
Putnam County
Richland County
Ross County
Sandusky County
Scioto County
Seneca County
– Fostoria
Shelby County
Trumbull County
– Girard
Tuscarawas County
– Dover
Union County
Van Wert County
– Van Wert
Vinton County
Washington County
Wayne County
Williams County
Wood County
Wyandot County

City Program Grantees

Ashland
Ashtabula
Athens
Chillicothe
Defiance
Delaware
Findlay
Fremont
Marion
Marysville
Medina
Mount Vernon
New Philadelphia
Niles
Norwalk
Oregon
Piqua
Portsmouth
Sidney
Tiffin
Troy
Wadsworth
Wooster
Xenia
Zanesville

B. Neighborhood Revitalization Grants

Grant Ceiling: $300,000

Eligible Applicants: Community Development Allocation Counties and Direct Cities. Communities electing to holdover their entire PY 2015 Community Development allocation may not submit an application for PY 2015 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant funds.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities include public facilities improvements such as construction reconstructing, and/or rehabilitating infrastructure in targeted areas of distress that do not fit within the criteria of other Ohio State CDBG competitive programs. At a minimum, Neighborhood Revitalization program applications must include three activities.

Ineligible Activities:

- Downtown revitalization activities (i.e., the program cannot be used for improvements to an area that would be considered part of the Central Business District).
- Public service or direct benefit activities;
- Housing activities (i.e., the program cannot be used for direct housing assistance such as, but not limited to, private rehabilitation, home repair and down payment assistance;
- Economic development activities (i.e., activities that would involve a loan to a private business or would require creating or retaining LMI jobs to meet CDBG eligibility requirements. Such activities are more appropriately funded through the CDBG Economic Development Program);
- Large-scale, single-purpose infrastructure projects that extend beyond the investment area targeted for the application that are better suited for the CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) or Critical Infrastructure Grant; and
- Planning Activities

Number of Investment Areas: Neighborhood Revitalization applicants can only address one target area per application submission.

Local Program Benefit: The program is targeted to distressed communities or areas in Ohio that have a low- and moderate-income (LMI) population of at least 51 percent. An area-wide activity may use ACS data or income surveys to document 51 percent LMI population. Applicants may submit projects under the area-wide or spot slum and blight categories, in accordance with the OCD Community Development Program policies and requirements. However, the improvements must still be shown to have at least 51 percent LMI benefit, and the application will be rated on the same distress factors (LMI beneficiaries).

Administrative Cost: A maximum of 15 percent or $30,000, whichever is less, of the total grant amount may be used for general administration, environmental review, audit and close-out.

Program Benefit Surveys: The grantee may qualify an activity based on an income survey of the activity's benefit (or service) area (completed according to the OCD Survey Methodology) which shows that at least 51 percent of the activity beneficiaries will be low- or moderate-income. The OCD Survey Methodology is posted on OCD's website at http://development.ohio.gov/files/cs/OCD_13-03.docm. The grantee is required to submit appropriate survey information to the State. Using an additional database will only be allowed with prior OCD approval.

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with or prior to submitting a funding application to the State for a specific community development project.

Program Amendments/Extensions: Because of the competitive nature of the Neighborhood Revitalization awards, grantees receiving Neighborhood Revitalization funds are discouraged from changing their programs through either an amendment or extension. OCD will consider on a case-by-case basis only those minor changes that do not affect approved activities' competitiveness for which the grantee received its original award. If the grantee is considering a change in program scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries or anticipated accomplishments, it must notify OCD of the proposed changes in writing. Formal written OCD approval is required. Amendments and extensions will be considered in application scoring during future funding rounds.

Local Program Period: Community Development Program award recipients receiving Neighborhood Revitalization funds must complete their programs according to the following deadlines:

1) all activities (except audit and balance of administration) must be completed by the end of the 24th month;
2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 25th month; and
3) all funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 26th month.

Audits of this grant must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, as described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Application Timing:

Submission:	June 26, 2015
Grant Award:	September 1, 2015

Neighborhood Facility Inventory: Communities will be required to complete a Neighborhood Facility Inventory to catalog the existing condition of the public facilities (e.g. streets, sidewalks, community centers, etc.) in the target area and the degree to which the proposed Neighborhood Revitalization program will improve the identified conditions.

Rating System Principles: All applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

1) Distress (15 points): Distress points will be calculated based on the percent and number of LMI persons who will benefit from the proposed program.

2) Leverage (20 Points): The extent to which the community will leverage other resources; leverage will be based upon the amount of other resources as compared to the total grant request. Also, it will be based on the extent to which the community will coordinate efforts and implement other programs with the proposed activities. Bonus leverage points will be awarded to applicants using all or part of their Community Development Allocation Program funds as matching dollars for neighborhood revitalization activities. However, no more than 20 points may be awarded for leverage.

3) Program Design (50 points): Program impact will be based on the extent to which the activities are based on a comprehensive approach to address needs within the targeted area; the extent to which the activities are consistent with the needs and strategies described in the applicant's Neighborhood Facility Inventory; the extent to which implementing the program will result in an improved living environment and quality of life for persons residing in the area. Program impact will also take into consideration the applicant's and/or consultant's administrative capacity. Administrative capacity will

include experience in administering the following aspects of OCD-administered programs; compliance with the grant agreement(s); program regulations and policies; resolving monitoring and/or audit findings; and progress in completing activities. Program impact will also take into consideration the progress of activities currently funded with Neighborhood Revitalization dollars.

4) Community Participation (15 points): The extent to which the local citizens and community organizations support selecting the proposed activities; the community's effectiveness in involving local citizens in the citizen participation process of the program planning process. The planning process should include details regarding informational, project selection and priority selection strategies.

C. Downtown Revitalization Grants

Grant Ceiling: $300,000

Eligible Applicants: Community Development Allocation Counties and Direct Cities. Communities electing to holdover their entire PY 2015 Community Development allocation may not submit an application for PY 2015 Downtown Revitalization Grant funds.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: uniform façade and sign improvements; interior and exterior building code violation corrections; streetscape activities; other eligible CDBG infrastructure and rehabilitation activities; administrative costs directly related to the downtown program; and architectural and engineering work related to specific revitalization activities.

Residential development, non-building-related private improvements (e.g. parking facilities, landscaping), and other investments undertaken in the downtown area during the CDBG project period can be counted as leverage. However, CDBG funds cannot be used to pay for these activities.

Ineligible Activities:

- Neighborhood revitalization activities (i.e., the program cannot be used for improvements to an area that would be considered part of a primarily residential area);
- Developing or redeveloping speculative projects or buildings;
- Funding to restructure or refinance existing debt(s), working capital, purchase or refinancing noncapital equipment, training costs, or inventory costs;
- Activities related to specific downtown promotional events (i.e., festivals parades, etc.);
- Costs associated with preparing plans and studies related to implementing downtown revitalization activities; and
- Large scale, single-purpose infrastructure projects that extend beyond the investment area targeted for the application that are better suited for the CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) or Critical Infrastructure Grant.

Program Investment Area: Downtown Revitalization applicants can only address conditions in the Central Business District. Applicants must submit a building map of the downtown area indicating the downtown target area's boundaries and where the proposed revitalization activities will occur. Communities must have adopted design review standards that include the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation verbatim for their program investment area.

Local Program Benefit/National Objective: Communities must qualify activities under the HUD Ohio State Administered CDBG program national objective of prevention/elimination of slum or blight.

To qualify under the HUD National Objective of Prevention/Elimination of Slum or Blight, the designated geographic area must meet the state or local legal definition of a slum, blighted or deteriorated or deteriorating area in which there is a substantial number of deteriorated or dilapidated buildings/building elements AND/OR deteriorated public infrastructure elements. For the purposes of this definition, substantial is defined as: 1) at least 51 percent of the buildings AND infrastructure within the defined downtown target area, OR 2) in those particular cases where prior work has been completed (i.e., work related to infrastructure improvements OR building improvements, etc.), and a minimum of 51 percent of the buildings in the target area OR a minimum of 51 percent of the infrastructure in the target area remains deteriorated, then either the buildings OR the infrastructure shall be considered as slum or blighted. Under the latter scenario, the applicant must submit additional documentation to OCD documenting that blighting conditions for either aspect of the downtown not being proposed for redevelopment (i.e. buildings OR infrastructure) has been virtually, if not entirely, eliminated. All activities funded under the slum or blight national objective must address one or more of the conditions that qualified the area as slum or blighted, i.e., streetscape revitalization, interior building code violation corrections, exterior facade and building code violation corrections**. In addition, slum or blight activities involving building rehabilitation are limited to building facade improvements and/or interior/exterior building code violation corrections.**

Communities qualifying a project under the "elimination of slums or blight" national objective are required to submit either a statement signed by the applicant community's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or a resolution passed by the governing legislative body, which declares the area slum or blighted and/or deteriorated or deteriorating, based upon state or local law. This statement or resolution must detail the program target area's condition at the time of its designation (i.e., downtown building and infrastructure inventories must have been conducted or updated within the 12-month period immediately prior to submitting an application to OCD to document the appropriate designation). Also, a copy of a map identifying the boundaries of both the target area identified in the local designation defined as slum or blighted and the proposed program target area, must be provided with the statement or resolution to OCD. All survey information relative to the identified area(s) must be maintained by the program applicant and submitted as part of the program application process.

Downtown Inventory: Applicants must survey the downtown program target area (which may include either the entire CBD or a portion of the downtown) and provide information about the condition, age, and use of private and public buildings, as well as infrastructure, as part of the application process. This information is required to be submitted by all Downtown Revitalization Program applicants. All specific survey information relative to the identified target area must be maintained by the applicant, as well as be submitted in summary form to OCD as part of the application process.

Administrative Cost: A maximum of 15 percent or $30,000, whichever is less, of the total grant amount may be used for general administration costs. Communities may also use up to 10 percent of the CDBG hard cost per unit for soft costs. Soft costs may be charged to each rehabilitation project and not counted against the administration cap. These include program implementation and oversight, preparing environmental review, audit, and closeout activities. Engineering, architectural and legal service costs related to activities undertaken with CDBG funds can be charged to the relative specific line item budget activity, environmental review, audit and close-out. Eligible soft costs for the CDBG Program are outlined at 24 CFR Part 570.202(b)(9).

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with, or prior to, submitting a funding application to the State for a specific community development project.

Program Amendments/Extensions: Because of the competitive nature of the Downtown Revitalization awards, Downtown Revitalization funds recipients are discouraged from changing their programs through either an amendment or extension. OCD will consider on a case-by-case basis only those minor changes that do not affect their approved activities' competitiveness for which the grantee received the original funds. If the grantee is considering a change in program scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries or anticipated accomplishments, it must notify OCD of the proposed changes in writing. Formal written OCD approval is required. Amendments and extensions will be considered in application scoring during future funding rounds.

Local Program Period: Community Development Program award recipients receiving Downtown Revitalization funds must complete their programs according to the following deadlines:

1) all activities (except audit and grant administration) must be completed by the end of the 24th month;
2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 25th month; and
3) all funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 26th month.

Grant audits must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, as described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Application Timing:

Submission:	June 26, 2015
Grant Award:	September 1, 2015

Design Standards: The local legislative body must adopt and enforce (i.e., a design review process is in place and active) architectural design standards applicable to the downtown target area, incorporating the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Business/Building Owner Program Participation: Applicants using Downtown Revitalization funds for façade improvements will not be required to include firm commitments from participating business/building owners with the application. However, committed program participants will be considered during scoring. OCD will not grant extensions to allow communities to expend all funds dedicated to private improvements. OCD also will not generally allow for amendments to shift unexpended funds to downtown infrastructure activities.

Program Rating System Principles: All applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

1) Distress (10 points): Distress points will be calculated based on the percent and number of LMI persons who will benefit from the program, the community's unemployment rate, and per capita income.

2) Leverage (20 points): The extent to which the community will leverage other public and private funds, as well as the proposed program financing mechanism and the reasonableness of total project costs; leverage will be based upon the amount of other resources as compared to the total grant request. Also, it will be based on the extent to which the community will coordinate efforts and implement other programs with the proposed activities. Bonus leverage points will be awarded to applicants using all or part of their Community Development Allocation Program funds as matching dollars for downtown revitalization activities. However, no more than 20 points may be awarded for leverage.

3) Program Design (50 points): Program Design will be based on the impact physical improvements will have on the downtown buildings and infrastructure; the community's comprehensive strategy and the extent to which the activities are consistent with the needs and strategies described in the applicant's most recent Downtown Inventory; extent to which jobs will be created and/or retained; effective use of CDBG funding; and overall program design and process; the anticipated degree of the downtown's increased long-term sustainability and marketability; and the extent to which the program can feasibly incorporate the Main Street Four Point Approach. Program impact will also take into consideration the applicant's and/or consultant's administrative capacity. Administrative capacity will include experience in administering the following aspects of OCD-administered programs; compliance with the grant agreement(s); program regulations and policies; resolving monitoring and/or audit findings; and progress in completing activities. Program impact will also take into consideration the progress of activities currently funded with Community Development competitive program dollars.

4) Organization Participation/Capacity (20 points): Community should have an active downtown management or business association that promotes or coordinates downtown revitalization activities. This organization should have participation from business and building owners in the Central Business District. Points will also be assigned based upon the extent to which the local business organization supports selecting the proposed activities; the effective the community's process is in involving the business organization in the application planning process. The planning process should include details regarding informational, project selection and priority selection strategies.

D. Critical Infrastructure Grants

Grant Ceiling: $300,000

Eligible Applicants: Community Development Allocation Counties and Direct Cities. Communities electing to holdover their entire PY 2015 Community Development allocation may not submit an application for PY 2015 Critical Infrastructure Grant funds. Counties may apply on behalf of non-direct cities, villages, and unincorporated areas.

Critical Infrastructure Program Principles: The Critical Infrastructure Program was created to assist communities with funding for high priority, single-component, projects, such as roads, flood and drainage, and other public infrastructure projects with high community-wide impact.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities include constructing, reconstructing or rehabilitating infrastructure components. Eligible infrastructure components include streets and bridges; sidewalks; flood and drainage; water and sanitary sewer; and fire protection facilities. Projects selected for funding must have a high community-wide impact.

Ineligible Activities:

- Public service or direct benefit activities;
- Planning Activities
- Economic development activities (i.e., activities that would involve a loan to a private business or would require creating or retaining LMI jobs to meet CDBG eligibility requirements. Such activities are more appropriately funded through the CDBG Economic Development Program);
- Projects in residential areas addressing deficiencies with multiple-components are better suited for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program;

- Projects in central business districts or commercial areas addressing deficiencies with multiple-components are better suited for the Downtown Revitalization Program;

- Large scale, single-purpose water and sanitary sewer projects that are better suited for the CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Program;

- Projects that are designed primarily for future residential, commercial or industrial development.

Note: Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure projects determined to be ineligible for the Residential Public Infrastructure Program may be eligible under the Critical Infrastructure Program. Applicants pursuing water and sewer infrastructure projects must demonstrate ineligibility for Residential Public Infrastructure Program.

Program Investment Area: Applicants must submit a map of the proposed investment area indicating the proposed infrastructure project's boundaries and location. Applicants are expected to explain how the investment area and project beneficiaries were determined. Communities will be required to complete an Infrastructure Condition Certification to catalog the targeted infrastructure's existing condition, and the degree to which the proposed Critical Infrastructure program will improve the identified conditions.

Local Program Benefit/National Objective: Communities must qualify activities under the HUD Ohio State Administered CDBG program national objectives of low- and moderate-income (LMI) area-wide benefit or the prevention/elimination of slum or blight.

To qualify under the HUD National Objective of LMI area-wide benefit, residents in the designated geographic area must be 51 percent LMI. Applicants may use Census data or income surveys to document 51 percent LMI population.

To qualify under the HUD National Objective of prevention/elimination of Slum or Blight, the designated geographic area must meet the state or local legal definition of substantial blighted or deteriorated public infrastructure elements. For the purposes of this definition, substantial is defined as at least 51 percent of the infrastructure within the defined target area is deteriorated.

Communities qualifying a project under the "elimination of slums or blight" national objective are required to submit either a statement signed by the applicant community's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or a resolution passed by the governing legislative body that declares the area slum or blighted and/or deteriorated or deteriorating, based upon state or local law. This statement or resolution must detail the program target area's infrastructure conditions at the time of its designation (i.e., infrastructure surveys must have been conducted or updated within the 12-month period immediately prior to application submission to OCD to document the appropriate designation). Also, a copy of a map, identifying the boundaries of both the target area identified in the local designation defined as slum or blighted and the proposed program target area, must be provided with the statement or resolution to OCD. All survey information relative to the identified area(s) must be maintained by the program applicant and submitted as part of the program application process.

Administration: A maximum of 10 percent or $20,000, whichever is less, of the total grant amount may be used for general administration, environmental review, audit and close-out.

Program Amendments: Because of the project-specific nature of the application and grant award, Critical Infrastructure Program grantees are discouraged from changing their programs. OCD will consider on a case-by-case basis only those minor changes that do not affect the approved application's competitiveness of the original grant award. Grantees considering a change in program scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries or anticipated accomplishments, must notify OCD in writing of the proposed changes. Formal written OCD approval is required before making the changes.

Local Program Period: Community Development Program award recipients receiving Critical Infrastructure funds must complete their programs according to the following deadlines:

(1) all activities (except audit and balance of administration) must be completed by the end of the 24th month;
(2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 25th month; and
(3) all funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 26th month.

Grant audits must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, as described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Application Timing:

Submission: June 26, 2015
Grant Award: September 1, 2015

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with or prior to submitting a funding application to the State for assistance with local match.

Rating System Principles: All applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

1) Distress (25 points): Distress points will be calculated based on the percent and number of LMI persons who will benefit from the proposed program.

2) Leverage (25 points): The extent to which the community will leverage other resources; leverage will be based upon the amount of other resources compared to the total grant request. Bonus leverage points will be awarded to applicants using all or part of their Community Development Allocation Program funds as matching dollars for critical infrastructure activities. However, no more than 25 points may be awarded for leverage.

3) Program Design/Sustainability (50 points): Program Design and Sustainability will be based on the extent to which the proposed project addresses the needs within the targeted area; the extent to which implementing the program will result in an improved living environment and quality of life for persons residing in the area; the proposed improvement's useful life; and a present health and safety concern. Program impact will also take into consideration the applicant's and/or consultant's administrative capacity. Administrative capacity will include experience in administering the following aspects of OCD-administered programs; compliance with the grant agreement(s); program regulations and policies; resolving monitoring and/or audit findings; and progress in the completing activities.

2. Economic Development Loan and Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Total Funds: Approximately $10 million in CDBG funds will be made available.

Program Categories: Eligible applicants may submit applications for one or more of the following categories of funding: Residential Public Infrastructure Program, Economic Development Public Infrastructure Program, and/or Economic Development Loan Program.

Local Program Benefit/National Objective: Communities **must** qualify activities under the HUD Ohio State CDBG program national objective of low- and moderate-income benefit.

Application Submission: Applicants are required to submit a pre-application to OCD for review to apply for funds. OCD will evaluate the proposed project's pre-applications on its consistency with programmatic thresholds and public benefit before making the decision to invite an applicant to submit a full application.

Both pre-application and full application instructions for funding will be available on OCD's website before the program year begins. Applications will be accepted on an open-cycle basis until all PY 2015 funds are awarded.

A. Economic Development Loan Program

Goal: To create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons, through expanding and retaining business and industry in Ohio communities.

Grant Ceiling. Maximum of $500,000 for direct loans; maximum grant ceiling includes project and program administration costs.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Non-entitlement cities and counties. Counties must apply on behalf of villages and townships; counties may also apply on behalf of cities within their jurisdiction. To limit creating new Revolving Loan Funds or in considering an applicant's administrative capacity, OCD maintains the right to require counties to apply on behalf of cities when appropriate.

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with or prior to submitting a funding application to the State for a specific economic development project.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities include providing financial assistance to private for-profit entities (through eligible units of general local government) to carry out economic development projects directly and primarily related to creating, expanding or retaining a particular business. Financing under the State CDBG Economic Development Program may cover fixed assets, including land, building, machinery and equipment, and site preparation directly related to business or industrial development. The amount and type of financial assistance provided to a project must be deemed appropriate with respect to the financial gap and the public benefit to be derived. Financing for fixed assets must be provided in the form of a non-forgivable loan.

In addition, job training is an eligible CDBG Economic Development Program activity. The State may provide applicants up to an additional $50,000 in Economic Development Program funds to provide training for low- and moderate-income individuals whose positions were created or retained by the recipient business.

Ineligible Activities:

- Financing existing debt, working capital, non-capital equipment, and inventory.

- Financing a project that involves relocating an industry or business from one area of Ohio to another. Exceptions will be made by the state on a case-by-case basis, but only if the relocation will create additional jobs, and the industry or business furnishes information to the state which demonstrates that the industry or business could not continue to operate in the existing location. Also, the applicant community must send a letter (by certified mail) to the community from which the business is relocating, explaining the reasons for relocation. The letter must include OCD's address and identify the OCD Economic Development Coordinator as the contact person.

- Financing speculative projects or buildings. Speculative buildings include those that do not have tenant commitments for at least 50 percent of the floor space or where project resources may not be sufficient to cover expenses.

Prohibition on Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities: CDBG regulations prohibit providing assistance that will result in relocating a plant, facility or operation from one Labor Market Area to another, as defined by the Ohio Development Service Agency's Office of Community Development, within three years of the assistance date, if such relocation will likely result in a significant job loss in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs. A significant loss is defined as losing less than 500 jobs or 1/10th of one percent of the total labor force in the labor market area through job relocation, but in all circumstances, 25 or fewer jobs will not be considered a significant loss. Federal Register/Vol. 71, No. 100/May 24, 2006/Rules and Regulations/24 CFR Part 570/Prohibition on Use of Community Development Block Grant Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities. (Map 1 on page 78 shows the OCD-defined labor market areas.)

Application Timing: Project applications will be accepted on a continuous basis, beginning July 1, 2015.

Application Review: The funding application will be available on OCD's website before the program year begins. OCD will review the application and provide a written response to the applicant community within 30 days of submission. A funding decision will be made within 45 days of receiving a complete application. **Communities are required to hold two public hearings before submitting a complete application to the State. The general public hearing may count as the first public hearing if the hearing includes information on the CDBG Economic Development Program.**

The applicant community must submit one bound original, plus one copy of the complete application.

Administrative Costs: Units of general local government receiving grants for economic development projects shall be allowed a maximum of $10,000, for general administration and implementation. Counties applying on behalf of other jurisdictions are limited to the same ceiling on administrative costs. For projects in which the $500,000 maximum is requested, administration funds must be subtracted from the total project award. Applicants requesting substantially less than the full amount allowed will receive special consideration.

Repayment/Program Income: Under the PY 2015 Ohio State Administered CDBG Program, funds awarded to units of general local government for economic development projects, and any subsequent program income generated, may not need to be repaid to the state of Ohio, if all funds are expended by the grantee in the same manner as the activity (economic development) that generated the program income, provided that the local grantee has an existing and satisfactorily performing economic development Revolving Loan Fund. Funds that will be expended in a different manner must receive prior approval from the State. The State reserves the right to recapture local program income from communities that fail to adequately meet statutory and regulatory requirements. Any program income derived by the grantee through administering economic development funds must also be expended according to applicable Federal and State statutory and regulatory requirements. Smaller units of government that do not

have an ongoing grant relationship with OCD, or an existing Revolving Loan Fund, will be required to arrange Revolving Loan Fund agreements with their county.

OCD will evaluate the grantee's ability to effectively administer a local Revolving Loan Fund upon application approval. If it is determined that the local Revolving Loan Fund is not being satisfactorily administered, collateral effectuation, promissory notes, and loan repayments must be provided to the State. A determination on what constitutes a "satisfactorily administered" economic development Revolving Loan Fund is the sole discretion of the State.

Closing Binder: An executed Closing Binder, comprised of all documents showing that the project is ready to move forward, must be received and acknowledged by OCD before expending CDBG funds.

Drawdown Procedure: Owners must expend their cash equity first. Once that has occurred, all the other public and/or private funds must be expended on a prorated basis with the CDBG funds. Waivers to this policy will be granted for exceptional cases and only upon OCD's prior written approval.

Number of Grant Awards: A project (site specific) may receive one award up to a maximum of $500,000 in a program year. No business may receive additional CDBG assistance until it completes its open CDBG project, in compliance with all requirements, and created/retained all the jobs to which the business committed. In addition, the prior grant must have been monitored and closed prior to considering an additional request.

Local Program Benefit: At least 51 percent of the jobs created and/or retained must be made available to persons of low or moderate income, as defined by the CDBG program. Job creation attributable to the CDBG-supported project must take place within 24 months of the work completion date specified in the Grant Agreement.

Job Documentation: The business may utilize the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and obtain a certification from that agency that a minimum of 51 percent of the jobs created were for persons of low- and moderate-income households. If ODJFS is not utilized, the business must maintain the following data on each employee hired or retained and each individual interviewed for a job:

(1) Person's name;
(2) Number of individuals in person's family; and
(3) Total family income of the person being interviewed (this should be done as an over/below answer relating to the median family income for each family size).

If an employee resides in or is employed in a census tract where 70 percent or more residents have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income, the employee is presumed to be a low- and moderate-income person. Such a presumption can also be made if an employee lives in a census tract or block group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level, or if the assisted business and the job under consideration are located in a census tract or block group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level. The same census tract criteria would apply to employees living in or employed in a federal empowerment zone or enterprise community.

This information, in either form, must be available in the community's program file as proof that the CDBG national objective was met.

Program Amendments: Because applications and grant awards are based on rating criteria, economic development grantees are discouraged from changing their programs. The OCD Amendment Policy is stated on page 127.

Local Program Period: Economic Development grantees will be allowed up to 14 months to have their PY 2015 grant(s) ready for closeout, beginning with grant agreement execution date. Within this allowable program period, the following deadlines must be met:

1) all activities must be completed by the end of the 12th month;
2) all funds must be drawn down by the end of the 13th month; and
3) all funds must be expended, the final performance report must be submitted, and the local program must be ready to be closed out by the end of the 14th month.

Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook. If a project will not be completed within the time frame identified above, an alternative local program period must be requested when submitting an application and approved prior to project commencement.

Appropriate Analysis: Under the Economic Development Loan Program, assistance is provided to private, for-profit businesses for eligible activities, where the assistance is appropriate to carry out an economic development project. In order to ensure that any such assistance is not unreasonably high, the State will conduct an analysis to determine that the amount of any financial assistance to be provided is not excessive, taking into account what the business actually needs in making the project financially feasible and the public benefit expected from the project.

Rating System Principles: An Economic Development Loan Program application must meet minimum program thresholds and eligibility criteria. The Economic Development Loan Program application will allow OCD to determine a proposed project's feasibility and fundability. **Meeting minimum threshold requirements does not guarantee project funding**.

Program thresholds include the following:

(1) A project must create and/or retain at least five full-time, permanent jobs in the private sector;

(2) At least 51 percent of the full-time, permanent jobs created and/or retained must be taken by or made available to persons from low- and moderate-income households;

(3) The CDBG cost per job must not exceed $25,000; however, to be competitive, an applicant must keep the CDBG cost-per-job ratio as low as possible;

(4) Each CDBG dollar must leverage at least one dollar of other public or private investment in the project's fixed asset cost;

(5) In order to be eligible for a CDBG loan, a borrower must be prepared to devote cash to the project's fixed assets equal to at least 5 percent of the total project's non-infrastructure fixed asset cost. Prior to OCD approving the loan, the borrower must demonstrate sufficient cash on hand to meet this qualification. Borrowed cash does not meet this qualification; and,

(6) At least 15 percent of a project's fixed asset cost must be privately financed; this may include owner/developer's cash equity contribution.

OCD will assess the application to determine whether the funding being requested is appropriate to meet Federal and State economic development objectives. The following rating criteria will be used to evaluate project applications:

(1) Program Effectiveness (60 points): Cost per job, job quality, CDBG funds re-capture terms, credit analysis, leverage ratio and equity contribution percentage.

(2) Program Impact (24 points): Downtown location, vacant building use, coordinating with other public programs, extensive spin-off potential, significant community impact and public benefit, using Ohio made products/materials, export business, project compatibility with statewide or local development plans, new enterprise, high low- and moderate-income person job commitment, Appalachian area location, low percentage of awarded administrative funds.

(3) Distress (16 points): Unemployment rate according to the latest monthly report and the percent of low- and moderate-income population in the county.

B. Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Goal: To create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons, through expanding and retaining business and industry in Ohio communities.

Grant Ceiling. Maximum of $500,000 for off-site infrastructure projects; maximum grant ceiling includes project and program administration costs.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Non-entitlement cities and counties. Counties must apply on behalf of villages and townships; counties may also apply on behalf of cities within their jurisdiction. In considering an applicant's administrative capacity, OCD maintains the right to require counties to apply on behalf of cities when appropriate.

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with or prior to submitting a funding application to the State for a specific economic development project.

Eligible Activities: Eligible activities include providing financial assistance, through eligible units of general local government, for public improvements directly and primarily related to creating, expanding or retaining a particular business. Financing under the State CDBG Economic Development Public Infrastructure Program is designed to cover public infrastructure investment directly related to business or industrial development. The amount and type of financial assistance provided to a project must be deemed appropriate with respect to financial gap and public benefit.

In addition, job training is an eligible CDBG Economic Development Program activity. The State may provide applicants up to an additional $50,000 in Economic Development Program funds to provide training for low- and moderate-income individuals whose positions were created or retained by the recipient business.

Ineligible Activities:

- Financing a project that involves relocating an industry or business from one area of Ohio to another. Exceptions will be made by the state on a case-by-case basis, but only if the relocation will create additional jobs, and the industry or business furnishes information to the state which demonstrates that the industry or business could not continue to operate in the existing location. Also, the applicant community must send a letter (by certified mail) to the community from which the business is relocating, explaining the reasons for relocation. The letter must include OCD's address and identify the OCD Economic Development Coordinator as the contact person.

- Financing speculative projects. Speculative projects include those that do not have an identified business or industrial development as an end user for the public infrastructure or where project resources may not be sufficient to cover expenses.

- Financing site preparation or infrastructure improvements owned by an identified business or industrial development or on an identified business' or industrial development's site. Site preparation and on-site infrastructure improvements are eligible CDBG Economic Development Loan Program activities.

Prohibition on Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities: CDBG regulations prohibit providing assistance that will result in relocating a plant, facility or operation from one Labor Market Area to another, as defined by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Development, within three years of the assistance date, if such relocation will likely result in a significant job loss in the labor market area from which the relocation occurs. A significant loss is defined as losing less than 500 jobs or 1/10th of one percent of the total labor force in the labor market area through relocating jobs, but in all circumstances, 25 or fewer jobs will not be considered a significant loss. Federal Register/Vol. 71, No. 100/May 24, 2006/Rules and Regulations/24 CFR Part 570/Prohibition on Use of Community Development Block Grant Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities. (Map 1 on page 78 shows the OCD-defined labor market areas.)

Off-Site Infrastructure Activities: While infrastructure is an eligible activity, the applicant community must demonstrate need for the funding level requested. Infrastructure funding will be based on the following guidelines:

(1) If the infrastructure improvement is on-site, funding must be provided to the business as a loan. Such projects will be considered with an application to the CDBG Economic Development Loan Program.

(2) OCD will require community, business and/or other financial participation toward the infrastructure costs. CDBG can only fund a portion of the minimum infrastructure necessary to adequately serve the business. In addition, applicants are reminded that CDBG funds can be used as either loans or grants. The department encourages communities to utilize negotiating methods and thorough discussion which, if appropriate, may result in a partial payback of CDBG funds to the community for future CDBG eligible activities. Such practice is not required and will not impact the department's decision in awarding CDBG funds. Any payments made to the community as a result of infrastructure repayment negotiations are maintained by the community in their Revolving Loan Fund as a revenue source to pay for infrastructure or other eligible projects in the future.

(3) CDBG economic development funding for the off-site infrastructure portion of projects will be scaled according to local area distress, as follows:

- Counties that are not distressed may receive up to 50 percent of the total off-site infrastructure costs.

- Counties that are distressed may receive up to 60 percent of the total off-site infrastructure costs.

- Counties that are highly distressed may receive up to 75 percent of the total off-site infrastructure costs.

Note: For the purpose of this program, distressed areas in the State are determined by ODSA's Research Office, based on unemployment rate, per capita income, poverty, and ARC distress criteria (see Map 2, page 79).

Area-wide Downtown Projects: Area-wide infrastructure projects in a community's defined central business district will not be funded under the Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program. The Community Development Program is an available funding source for downtown-related infrastructure projects.

Application Timing: Project applications will be accepted on a continuous basis, beginning on July 1, 2015.

Application Review: The funding application will be available on OCD's website before the program year begins. OCD will review the application and provide a written response to the applicant community within 30 days of submission. A funding decision will be made within 45 days after OCD receives the complete application. **Communities are required to hold two public hearings before submitting a complete application to the State. The general public hearing may count as the first public hearing if the hearing includes information on the CDBG Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program.**

The applicant community must submit one bound original, plus one copy of the complete application.

Administrative Costs: Units of general local government receiving grants for economic development projects shall be allowed a maximum of $10,000, for general administration and implementation. Counties applying on behalf of other jurisdictions are limited to the same ceiling on administrative costs. For applicants requesting the $500,000 maximum award, administration funds must be subtracted from the total project award. Applicants requesting substantially less than the full amount allowed will receive special consideration.

Repayment/Program Income: Under the PY 2015 Ohio State Administered CDBG Program, funds awarded to units of general local government for economic development projects, and the subsequent program income which may be generated, may not need to be repaid to the state of Ohio, if all funds are expended by the grantee in the same manner as the activity (economic development) that generated the program income, provided that the local grantee has an existing and satisfactorily performing economic development Revolving Loan Fund. Funds expended in a different manner must receive prior approval from the State. The State reserves the right to recapture local program income from communities that fail to adequately meet statutory and regulatory requirements. Any program income derived by the grantee through administering economic development funds must also be expended according to applicable Federal and State statutory and regulatory requirements. Smaller units of government that do not have an ongoing grant relationship with OCD, or an existing Revolving Loan Fund, will be required to arrange Revolving Loan Fund agreements with their county.

OCD will evaluate the grantee's ability to effectively administer a local Revolving Loan Fund when the application is approved. If it is determined that the local Revolving Loan Fund is not being satisfactorily administered, collateral effectuation, promissory notes, and loan repayments must be provided to the State. A determination on what constitutes a "satisfactorily administered" economic development Revolving Loan Fund is the sole discretion of the State.

Closing Binder: An executed Closing Binder, comprised of all documents showing that the project is ready to move forward, must be received and acknowledged by OCD before expending CDBG funds.

Drawdown Procedure: An owner's cash equity must be expended first. Once that has occurred, all the other public and/or private funds must be expended on a prorated basis with the CDBG funds. Waivers to this policy will be granted for exceptional cases and only upon OCD's prior written approval.

Number of Grant Awards: A project (site specific) may receive one award up to a maximum of $500,000 in a program year. No business may benefit from additional CDBG assistance until the business has completed its most recent prior CDBG project, in compliance with all requirements, and created/retained all the jobs to which the business committed. In addition, the prior grant must have been monitored and closed prior to considering an additional request.

Local Program Benefit: At least 51 percent of the jobs created and/or retained must be made available to persons from low- or moderate-income households, as defined by the CDBG program. Job creation attributable to the CDBG-supported project must take place within 24 months of project completion. Project completion means the point in time when all construction or machinery installation involved in the project has been completed, which cannot be later than the work completion date specified in the Grant Agreement.

Benefit Documentation for Public Improvements: The unit of local government receiving a CDBG public improvement award to create and/or retain jobs must prepare an assessment identifying any businesses located or expected to locate in the public improvement service area . The assessment must project all jobs that are expected to be created or retained for the one-year period after completing the public improvement. Jobs created by businesses that locate in the area as a result of the public improvement at any time during the three-year period are considered in meeting the 51 percent LMI benefit national objective. If, however, the amount of CDBG assistance provided for the public improvement in relation to the number of jobs projected to be created/retained, as identified in the assessment, is such that the amount per job is less than $10,000, the jobs created by businesses not identified in the assessment do not need to be considered.

Job Documentation: The business may utilize the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to obtain a certification that a minimum of 51 percent of the jobs created were for persons of low- and moderate-income households. If ODJFS is not utilized, the business must maintain the following data on each employee hired or retained and each individual interviewed for a job:

(1) Person's name;
(2) Number of individuals in person's family; and
(3) Total family income of the person being interviewed (this should be done as an over/below answer relating to the median family income for each family size).

If an employee resides in or is employed in a census tract where 70 percent or more residents have incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income, the employee is presumed to be a low- and moderate-income person. Such a presumption can also be made if an employee lives in a census tract or block group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level, or if the assisted business and the job under consideration are located in a census tract or block group where 20 percent or more of the residents are below the poverty level. The same census tract criteria would apply to employees living in or employed in a federal empowerment zone or enterprise community.

This information, in either form, must be available in the community's program file as proof that the CDBG national objective was met.

Program Amendments: Because applications and grant awards are based on rating criteria, economic development grantees are discouraged from changing their programs. The OCD Amendment Policy is stated on page 127.

Local Program Period: Economic Development grantees will be allowed up to 14 months to have their PY 2015 grant(s) ready for closeout, beginning with the grant agreement execution date. Within this allowable program period, the following deadlines must be met:

(1) all activities must be completed by the end of the 12th month;
(2) all funds must be drawn down by the end of the 13th month; and
(3) all funds must be expended, the final performance report must be submitted, and the local program must be ready to be closed out by the end of the 14th month.

Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook. If a project will not be completed within

the time frame identified above, an alternative local program period must be requested when submitting an application and approved prior to project commencement.

Appropriate Analysis: Under the Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program, assistance is provided to private for-profit businesses for eligible activities, where the assistance is appropriate to carry out an economic development project. In order to ensure that any such assistance is not unreasonably high, the State will conduct an analysis to determine that the amount of any financial assistance to be provided is not excessive, taking into account the business' actual needs in making the project financially feasible and the public benefit expected from the project.

Rating System Principles: An Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program application must meet minimum program thresholds and eligibility criteria. The Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program application will allow OCD to determine the proposed project's feasibility and fundability. **Meeting minimum threshold requirements does not guarantee project funding**.

Program thresholds include the following:

(1) A project must create and/or retain at least five full-time, permanent jobs in the private sector;

(2) At least 51 percent of the full-time, permanent jobs created and/or retained must be taken by or made available to persons from low- and moderate-income households;

(3) The CDBG cost per job must not exceed $9,999.99 for off-site infrastructure projects; however, to be competitive, an applicant must keep the CDBG cost-per-job ratio as low as possible;

(4) Each CDBG dollar must leverage at least one dollar in other public or private investment; and

(5) At least 15 percent of a project's fixed asset cost must be privately financed; this may include owner/developer's cash equity contribution.

OCD will assess the application to determine whether the funding being requested is appropriate to meet Federal and State economic development objectives. The following rating criteria will be used to evaluate project applications:

(1) Program Effectiveness (60 points): Cost per job, job quality, percentage of community contribution for infrastructure, credit analysis, leverage ratio and percentage of equity contribution.

(2) Program Impact (24 points): Downtown location, vacant building use, coordinating with other public programs, extensive spin-off potential, significant community impact and public benefit, using Ohio made products/materials, export business, project compatibility with statewide or local development plans, new enterprise, high low- and moderate-income person job commitment, Appalachian area location, low percentage of awarded administrative funds.

(3) Distress (16 points): Unemployment rate according to the latest monthly report and the percent of low- and moderate-income population in the county.

C. Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Goal: To create a safe and sanitary living environment for Ohio citizens, by providing safe and reliable drinking water and proper sanitary waste disposal.

Grant Ceiling: The awards may not exceed $600,000. The maximum award for public infrastructure is $500,000. An additional $100,000 may be requested for on-site improvements.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Non-entitlement counties, cities and villages. Counties must apply on behalf of unincorporated areas and villages that do not have a demonstrated capacity to operate a public water or wastewater system (see **Memorandum of Understanding policy** below). Cities and villages will be limited to one grant award per program year. Counties will be limited to four awards per program year. A county may receive two grant awards for applications submitted on behalf of itself and two on behalf of one or more eligible sub-units of general local government (villages and cities) within the county's jurisdiction. Jurisdictions funded under this program in PY 2014 will not be eligible for funding in PY 2015; however, counties funded in PY 2015 are allowed to apply on behalf of a different sub-unit of government within their jurisdiction. All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the ability to administer a Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program. OCD may require a county to apply for grant funds on the behalf of a city or village within its jurisdiction if administrative capacity cannot be demonstrated by the city or village.

Memorandum of Understanding: To facilitate constructing a project funded through the CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program, a grantee may be permitted to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a municipality, local water or sewer district and/or a nonprofit water company, so that it can implement the project. The municipality, local water or sewer district and/or a nonprofit water company must be the sole or part owner of a contract funded with CDBG dollars for constructing water or sanitary sewer facility improvements. Grantees will be required to obtain prior written approval from OCD to enter into an MOU before submitting a grant application. The grantee will retain responsibility for assuring that the project meets all of OCD's grant agreement conditions.

Local Capacity: Applicants must be able to demonstrate an ability to operate a water or wastewater system. Villages that currently lack both systems will be considered as not having capacity. Applicants must also be able to show the proposed project's long-term financial viability.

Eligible Activities: The Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program will only fund projects that provide water and/or sanitary sewer service to primarily residential users (minimum 60 percent of total users). Eligible on-site improvements include service laterals, septic tanks and well abandonment, and CDBG-eligible related fees. Applications where the primary objective is funding on-site improvements will not be considered.

Local Program Benefit: The program is targeted to distressed communities or areas in Ohio that have a low- and moderate-income population of at least 51 percent.

Administrative Cost: A maximum of 10 percent or $20,000, whichever is less, of the total grant amount may be used for general administration, implementation (including on site delivery costs), environmental review, audit and close-out.

Program Benefit Survey: The grantee may qualify a project using the 2006-2010 American Community Survey Low/Moderate Income Summary Data or an income survey of the activity's benefit area (or service area) according to the OCD Survey Methodology showing that at least 51 percent of the activity beneficiaries are low- or moderate-income. The grantee is required to submit appropriate survey information with the original application to the State. Using an additional database will only be allowed with prior OCD approval.

Program Amendments: Because applications and grant awards are based on rating criteria, Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program grantees are discouraged from changing their programs. OCD will consider on a case-by-case basis only those minor changes that do not affect the approved application's competitiveness of the original grant award. Grantees considering a change in program scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries or anticipated accomplishments, must notify OCD in writing of the proposed changes. Formal written OCD approval is required before making the changes.

Local Program Period: PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program grantees must complete their programs according to the following deadlines:

(1) all activities (except audit and balance of administration) must be completed by the end of the 24th month;
(2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 25th month; and
(3) all funds must be disbursed and expended, and a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 26th month.

Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, as described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Cities and villages with one open Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program grant and counties with two open Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program grants are not eligible to apply.

Committing Community Development Allocation Funds: Grantees committing Program Year 2015 Community Development Allocation grant funds to PY 2015 Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program projects must reprogram the Community Development Allocation funds to other CDBG eligible activities if the Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program application is not approved by September 1, 2015.

Revolving Loan Fund Participation: Local units of government will be required to substantially disburse any existing Revolving Loan Fund balance in conjunction with or prior to submitting a funding application to the State for a specific water and sewer project.

Application Submission: Funding applications may be submitted beginning June 15, 2015. A Letter of Interest is required prior to submitting a full application. The Letter of Interest must include a brief proposed project and project area description; a summary of other funds committed to the project; a copy of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Permit to Install or Plan Approval, if applicable; a brief description of the community's current water and wastewater systems; and the community's Chief Elected Official's and grant writer's name, address, telephone number and email address. The state will review the Letter of Interest and notify the applicant if a full application will be accepted. The state will review the full application and provide the applicant a written status report within four weeks of submission.

Readiness to Proceed: Project design must be completed prior to application submission. Applicants submitting projects requiring Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and approval must provide documentation of the Ohio EPA's approval with the application.

Direct Benefit Assistance: Applicants must address the way in which eligible low- and moderate-income households will connect to a new water or sanitary sewer service if funding for on-site improvements is not requested.

Assessments and Fees:

(1) Special assessment definition: The term "special assessment" means a fee or charge levied or filed as a lien against a parcel of real estate as a direct result of benefit derived from installing a public improvement, such as streets, water or sewer lines, curbs, and gutters. The amount of the fee represents the prorated share of the capital costs of the

public improvement levied against the benefiting properties or a one-time charge made as an access condition to the public improvement. This term does not relate to taxes, or establishing real estate value for levying real estate, property, or ad valorem taxes, nor does it include periodic charges based on using public improvements, such as water or sewer user charges, even if such charges include recovering all or some portion of the public improvement's capital costs.

(2) Special assessments to recover capital costs: Where CDBG funds are used to pay all or part of public improvement cost, special assessments may be used to recover capital costs as follows:

(a) Special assessments to recover the CDBG funds may be made only against properties owned and occupied by households not of low and moderate income. **Such assessments constitute program income**.

(b) Special assessments to recover the non-CDBG portion may be made provided that CDBG funds are used to pay the special assessment on behalf of all properties owned and occupied by low- and moderate-income households; except that CDBG funds need not be used to pay the special assessments on behalf of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income households if the grant recipient certifies that it does not have sufficient CDBG funds to pay the assessments on behalf of all the low- and moderate-income, owner-occupant households. **Funds collected through such special assessments are not program income**.

(3) Other uses of CDBG funds for special assessments: Program funds may be used to pay all or part of special assessments levied against a property when such assessments are used to recover the capital cost of eligible public improvements financed solely from sources other than CDBG funds, provided that:

(a) The assessment represents that property's share of the capital cost of the improvements;

(b) Installing the public improvements was carried out in compliance with requirements applicable to activities assisted under this part of the CDBG regulations including environmental, citizen participation, and Davis-Bacon requirements; and

(c) Installing the public improvement meets a national objective criterion.

NOTE:

(1) Under this program, special assessments cannot be paid for low- or moderate-income persons where the public improvement itself does not meet a national objective.

(2) "To pay" an assessment for a low- or moderate-income person means to pay the whole assessment as a grant.

Rating System Principles:

A Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program application must meet minimum program thresholds and eligibility criteria. The Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program application will allow OCD to determine the proposed project's feasibility and fundability. **Meeting minimum threshold requirements does not guarantee project funding**.

Program thresholds include the following:

(1) Leverage: The requested CDBG Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program funds must, at a minimum, be matched on a one-for-one basis with funds from other sources. The other funds can be non-Water and Sanitary Sewer CDBG funds, as well as funds

from other public or private sources.

(2) Program Impact: The project must alleviate the identified health hazard (this does not include fire hazards) or replace a functionally obsolete facility. A functionally obsolete facility is defined as a water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant or water storage structure that is at least 40 years old and repairing the facility costs more than replacing the facility.

(3) System Sustainability and the Community's Financial Capacity and Rate Structure: The system's long-term sustainability will be evaluated based on the rate structure and user population demographics. Water and/or sewer fees must be in line with the following requirements:

- For an area without a water or sanitary sewer system:
- User fees for a new water system must be at least 1 percent of the area median household income (MHI) or $30/month, whichever is less.
- User fees for a new sanitary sewer system must be at least 1 percent of the area MHI or $30/month, whichever is less.

For an area without a **sanitary sewer system** that is interested in improving an existing **water system**, user fees for the water system must be at least 1 percent of the MHI or $30/month, whichever is less.

For an area **without a water system** that is interested in improving an existing **sanitary sewer system**, user fees for the sanitary sewer system must be at least 1 percent of the MHI or $30/month, whichever is less.

For an area **with a water system** that is interested in constructing a new **sanitary sewer system**, combined user fees must be at least 2 percent of the area MHI or $60/month, whichever is less.

For an area **with a sanitary sewer system** that is interested in constructing a new **water system**, combined user fees must be at least 2 percent of the area MHI or $60/month, whichever is less.

For an area with both a water system and a sewer system that is interested in improving either system, combined user fees must be at least 2 percent of the area MHI or $60/month, whichever is less.

(4) Readiness to Proceed: Project design must be completed prior to application submission. Applicants submitting projects requiring Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review and approval must provide documentation of the Ohio EPA's approval and Permit to install with the application.

All applications will be rated according to the following criteria:

(1) Benefit Impact (35 points): Percent of low- and moderate-income persons, and total number of persons benefiting from the program;

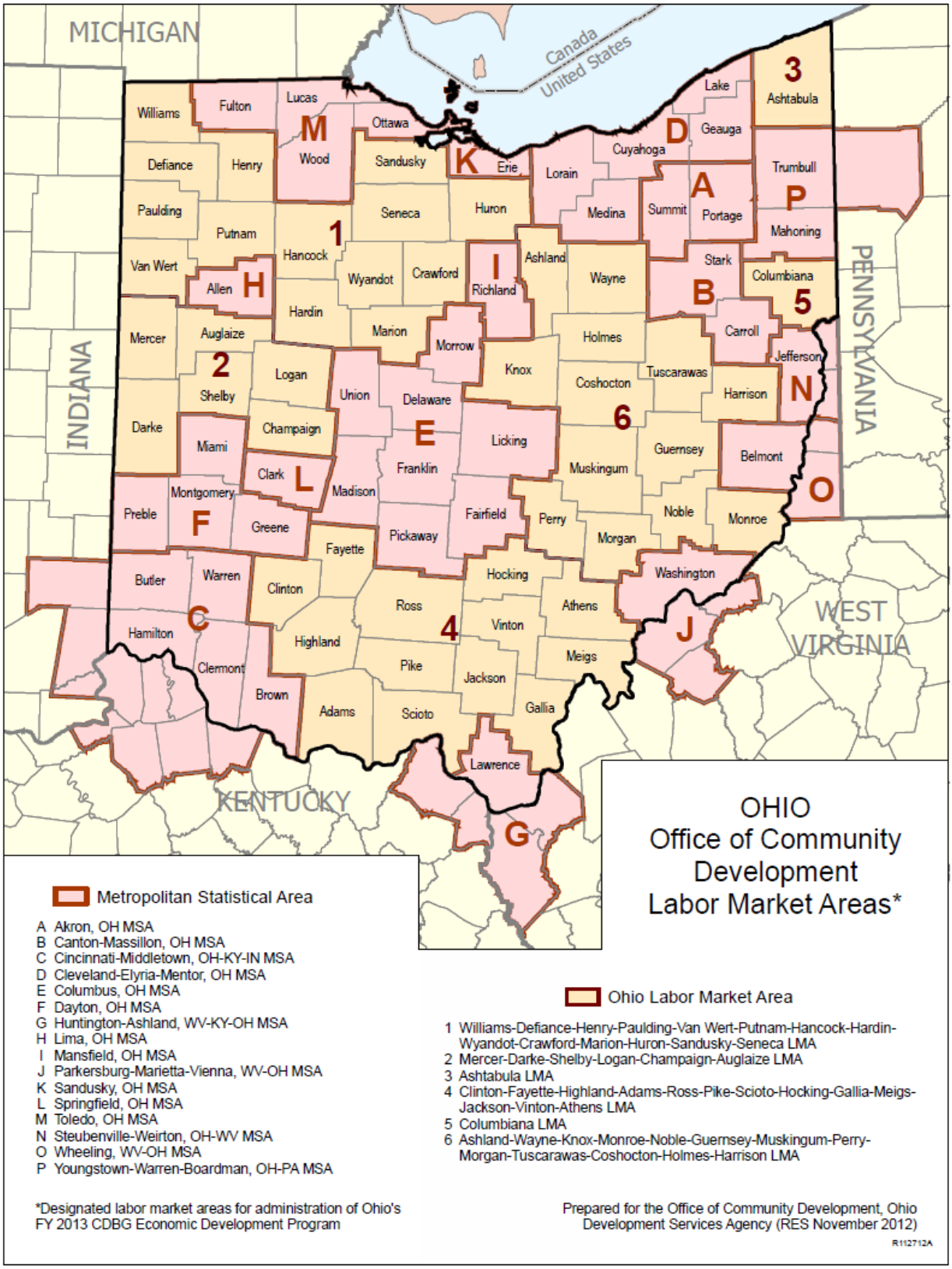
(2) Leverage (10 points): Each CDBG dollar must leverage at least one dollar of other public or private funds in the approved project cost;

(3) Program Impact (25 points): Communities under EPA mandates with documented health and safety concerns will be given priority (relationship of proposed activities to identified needs);

(4) Regionalization and Shared Services (15 points): The applicant is a part of a regional system, which is defined by the following criteria: a system established under Sections 6103, 6117 and 6119 of the ORC; a system connected to another system for the providing water or treating wastewater, a nonprofit system that serves more than one political subdivision; and a for-profit system (not company) that serves more than one political subdivision. Shared services include, but are not limited to, entering into long term agreements for billing and plant operation with another public entity.

(5) System Sustainability and the Community's Financial Capacity and Rate Structure (15 points): The system's long term sustainability based on rates and user population demographics and the community's ability to raise funds locally through user fees.

Map 1: 2015 CDBG Economic Development Program Labor Market Areas



Map 2: PY 2015 Ohio Distressed Counties*

Source: Office of Policy Research and Strategic Planning

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Ohio Development Services Agency
November 2014

*Distress is calculated by the following criteria:

- Per Capita Income must be at or below 80% of U.S. per capita income.
- Poverty is defined as 20% or greater of persons below the poverty level; in intercensal years for counties, a percentage of transfer payment income to total county income equal to or greater than 25%.
- Unemployment must be 125% or greater of the most recent U.S. 5-year average unemployment rate.
- Designated distressed by ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission).

Other Resources

Target of Opportunity Grant Programs

New Horizons Fair Housing Assistance Program

1. Target of Opportunity Grant Programs

Goal: To provide a means to fund worthwhile "targets of opportunity" projects and activities that do not fit within existing program structures, and to provide supplemental resources to resolve immediate and unforeseen needs.

Total Funds: The PY 2015 funding amounts are as follows: Approximately $900,000 in PY 2015 CDBG funds; $100,000 in PY 2015 federal ESG funds; SFY 2016 Ohio Housing Trust Funds (amount yet to be determined); Program Income from the State of Ohio's Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (amount yet to be determined).

Applicant and Project Eligibility:

A. Economic and Community Development: This program will provide funds for "targets of opportunity" investments in:

1. Economic development projects that create and/or retain permanent job opportunities and are not eligible for Economic Development Program funding or feasible within the Economic Development Program guidelines.
2. Community development projects that are not feasible in other funding categories.
3. Downtown Targets of Opportunity projects. Only single building projects will be considered. To qualify, building must be on the National Register of Historic Places, in the Ohio Historic Inventory or in a Local Historic District.
4. Imminent threat grants covered by the Federal CDBG Regulation (Section 570.432).

Grant Ceiling: Fund level is negotiated based upon need.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Cities, Counties, or Villages

Eligible Activities: Any CDBG-eligible activity

Application Timing: Project applications will be accepted on an open-cycle basis from June 16, 2015 until June 1, 2016, or until such time OCD expends available funding.

OCD reserves the right to adjust funding levels between categories according to project and funding availability.

Program Period: The program period will be determined through negotiations with OCD. Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Application Procedures: An eligible community may apply for economic and community development discretionary funds at any time during the PY 2015 program year by submitting a written request for funds including a brief project description, information on how the project meets a national objective if the request is for CDBG funding, and preliminary sources and uses table to the appropriate OCD Section Supervisor (i.e., Economic and Appalachian Development, Residential Revitalization or Supportive Housing).

OCD staff will conduct initial submission reviews at least quarterly and notify the community if a full application should be submitted. Eligibility for CDBG assistance does not guarantee project funding.

Rating System Principles:

- Project funds are not available from any other source and/or the requested funds fill a "gap;"
- Project is eligible and meets at least one of the CDBG national objectives; and
- Funds are needed to make the project financially feasible.

Program Requirements: CDBG Discretionary grants must be administered according to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

B. Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) Target of Opportunity Grants: The OHTF Target of Opportunity Grants provide funding for "target of opportunity" projects and innovative proposals that will principally benefit persons below 50 percent of the area median income and meet the OHTF rules and requirements. Projects or activities must be supported by statewide or regional organizations that serve multiple counties, or provide statewide services.

Grant Ceiling: Funding level is determined based upon demonstrated need. OHTF Target of Opportunity Grants for individual special projects typically will not exceed $200,000 annually. Applicants whose requests may exceed the $200,000 request should discuss their project with OCD staff first.

Matching Funds: Projects should evidence at least a dollar-to-dollar match in cash and/or direct "in kind" services.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, public housing authorities, private developers and lenders and consortia of any eligible applicants.

Eligible Activities: Proposals considered for target of opportunity funds must be inappropriate for funding from other state housing programs, either due to eligibility, program scope or project timing. Projects must result in identifiable outcomes and beneficiaries (cannot be seed money or start-up funds).

Application Timing: The SFY 2016 OHTF Target of Opportunity Grants application deadline is March 28, 2015.

Program Period: The program period will be determined through negotiations with OCD. Proposals may request multi-year funding, up to three years.

Application Review: Upon application submission, the application(s) will be reviewed by OCD staff, other state agency staff (if appropriate) and the OHTF Advisory Committee. The Ohio Development Services Agency director will make the final decision regarding project funding.

Rating System Principles:

1. Extent to which the project activity impacts low- and moderate-income persons by:
   - Improving housing conditions;
   - Increasing housing availability, affordability or accessibility;
   - Educating and informing the public about housing issues, including housing counseling; and
   - Preventing homelessness, through direct housing assistance or supportive services.

2. Extent to which the project or activity fills an unmet need or gap.

3. Extent to which the project creates or applies innovative techniques and the extent to which such techniques can be replicated or used as a model.

C. Homelessness Target of Opportunity Grants

Approximately $100,000 of PY 2015 Emergency Shelter (ES) Target of Opportunity Program funds is available through the PY 2015 Target of Opportunity Program. Eligible applicants are primarily limited to PY 2013 and PY 2014 Supportive Housing Program and Homeless Crisis Response Program grantees.

The PY 2015 Emergency Shelter Target of Opportunity Program priority is to provide funds for critical activities at existing OCD-funded emergency shelter locations. As a secondary priority and based on need and availability, these funds may also be used to fund emergency activities at

OCD-funded organizations that serve homeless populations through other supportive housing models as well as organizations providing emergency shelter, but not receiving OCD homeless assistance funds. All activities must be deemed an emergency or include needs that could not be anticipated during the normal funding program cycle.

Application Procedures Applicants must submit an Emergency Shelter Target of Opportunity Program application to:

Ohio Development Services Agency
Office of Community Development
77 S. High Street
26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

OCD will respond with the award decision or to request additional information. Requests for additional information for project/activity review do not guarantee that any request will be funded.

Rehabilitation Project Requirements: Rehabilitation projects will be reviewed for: compliance with local health, building and zoning regulations; site control evidence, lease agreement or other arrangements for the project; property/building appraisal; extent to which financing is secure; proposed budget reasonableness; and proposed project completion time frame reasonableness. Rehabilitation projects must include a detailed, itemized estimate that includes labor and material costs. Estimates must be on an authorized contractor's letterhead.

Program Period: Grantees must complete their program according to the following deadlines:

(1) all activities must be completed and costs paid with grant funds incurred by the end of the 12th month;
(2) all drawdown requests must be submitted to OCD by the end of the 13th month; and
(3) a final performance report must be submitted by the end of the 14th month.

Deadlines will be adjusted if the work period is less than one year.

D. Neighborhood Stabilization:

This program will provide funds for projects that were eligible under the state of Ohio's Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP).

Grant Ceiling: Funding level will be determined based on the applicant's demonstrated need.

Matching Funds: Projects should evidence a reasonable amount of matching funds and/or direct "in kind" services.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Non-entitlement cities and counties previously funded through the state of Ohio's Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 and non-profit consortium members previously funded through the state of Ohio's Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2.

Eligible Activities: Any state of Ohio's Neighborhood Stabilization Program's activities is eligible, with the exception of land banking. Twenty-five percent of the state's funds must be spent on projects benefitting persons at or below 50 percent of the Area Median Income. Preference will be given to projects that meet this requirement. A maximum of 10 percent of each grant award can be used for administration.

Application Timing: Project applications will be accepted on an open-cycle basis from July 1, 2015 until June 1, 2016, or until such time as available funds have been expended.

Program Period: The program period will be determined by OCD, based upon the project scope. Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Application Procedures: Eligible applicants may apply for Neighborhood Stabilization Target of Opportunity funds by submitting a written request for funds, including a brief project description. The description should include information on how the project meets program eligibility, and a preliminary sources and uses table. Applications must be submitted to the OCD Residential Revitalization Section Supervisor.

Initial submissions will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. OCD will notify the applicant if a full application for funding will be solicited. Demonstrated NSP eligibility does not guarantee project funding.

Rating System Principles:

- Project is NSP-eligible and meets at least one of the CDBG national objectives;
- Demonstrated need, and a satisfactory project financial analysis has been provided;
- Demonstrated previous NSP administrative capacity;
- Funds are needed to make the project feasible;
- Priority will be given to projects that benefit persons at or below 50 percent of the Area Median Income; and
- Priority will be given to projects for NSP grantees that have previously contributed and/or are expecting to generate additional NSP Program Income as part of their NSP Target of Opportunity application.

Program Requirements: Neighborhood Stabilization Discretionary grants must be administered according to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Applicants must meet requirements for fair housing and program income. Any program income generated from projects completed under this program must be returned to OCD for redistribution under the NSP Discretionary Program. Program income returned will be determined on a pro-rated basis for projects containing other funds.

E. New Horizons Fair Housing Assistance Program

Goal: To provide funds to units of local government, or consortia of units of local government, to affirmatively further fair housing in addition to activities undertaken with their minimum fair housing program required as part of submitting the Community Development Allocation Grant Application and the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) application. Affirmative fair housing strategies are to be based on locally assessed needs and commitments, as well as to further the State's fair housing goal.

Total Funds: $50,000 CDBG funds will be allocated for PY 2015.

Grant Ceiling: Up to $15,000 for one jurisdiction, and up to an additional $5,000 for each additional eligible jurisdiction in a consortium, for a maximum award not exceeding $30,000.

Eligible Jurisdictions: Direct Community Development Allocation cities and counties.

Eligible Activities: Implementing analysis of impediments to fair housing strategies; activities to affirmatively further fair housing, actions relating to housing and community development to remedy or mitigate conditions limiting fair housing choice. Activities must be above and beyond the State minimum requirements. (See “Local Government Certifications to the State”.) Activities may be eligible as administration or public service. A maximum of 15 percent of the total grant request will be allowed for general administrative and implementation costs.

Application Timing: On-going. Approximately one third of the available funds will be awarded in each four-month cycle, but the State reserves the right to determine the final funding level of each respective cycle.

Application Submission: June 13, 2015 to May 31, 2016.

Rating and Selection Criteria: All applications are reviewed, rated, and scored based on the criteria outlined below. The process is competitive and designed to rank order applicants to be offered funding with the limited New Horizons funds available. Applicants must score at least 72 points to be eligible for funds.

Threshold Review: Applications that do not meet the minimum threshold requirements will not be scored or funded. Threshold requirements are 1) the (lead) applicant is a Direct Community Development grantee, 2) all tables are included and complete, 3) signed by the CEO, 4) attached authorizing legislation for the applicant and consortia members, 5) attached anti-displacement plan, 6) proposed activities are eligible, 7) the program design exceeds the standard fair housing requirements, and 8) previous New Horizon grant programs have been monitored.

Program Design/Impact (40 points): The proposed program's significant benefits in eliminating impediments to fair housing, the benefit to current housing activities and programs, the degree to which the program is designed to create on-going local capacity, the proposed program elements' appropriateness and effectiveness.

Administrative Capacity/Past Performance (30 points.): The adequacy of the proposed administrative plan, the applicant's experience and capacity for implementing the proposed activities, past program performance and compliance evaluation.

Cost Effectiveness (20 points): The degree to which the cost of an outcome is reasonable and appropriate for the proposed activity and the degree to which the cost of general administration is reasonable and appropriate.

Leverage and Coordination (10 points): A comparison of the amount of funds committed to fair housing in the past two years' Community Development Program and the extent to which the proposed program integrates and coordinates with other local programs, funds, and activities

Grant Award: Approximately six weeks after submission.

Program Period: Grantees have until the end of the 12th month to complete activities, all funds must be drawn by the end of the 13th month, and the grant must be closed out and the Final Performance Report must be submitted by the end of the 14th month. Grant audit(s) must be conducted in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, described in the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook.

Program Amendments: Because of the nature of the applications and grant awards New Horizons Fair Housing Assistance Program grantees are strongly discouraged from changing their approved programs. Amendments may be made only through the 10th month of the program period. The OCD Amendment Policy is stated in the OCD Policy section of OCD's Annual Plan.

Procedures for Processing an Amendment:

1. Call or write the OCD Civil Rights Specialist to discuss the proposed amendment.
2. OCD will then forward a computer-generated amendment form.
3. Fill out the form, with the CEO's signature, and return to OCD.
4. OCD will either send the approved executed amendment or notification the amendment was rejected.

Program Requirements: Funds awarded under this program must be administered according to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.

Programs' Application Deadlines and Grant Award Cycles

Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program

Application Submission:	May 1, 2015
Grant Award:	September 1, 2015

Homeless Crisis Response Program

Application Submission:	July 1, 2015
Grant Award:	Approximately four months after submission

Supportive Housing Program

Application Submission:	June 3, 2015
Grant Award:	Approximately four months after submission

Housing Assistance Grant Program

Application Submission:	November 19, 2015
Grant Award:	Approximately eight weeks after submission

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Program

Application Submission:	November 2, 2015
Grant Award:	Approximately seven weeks after submission

Community Development Program (Community Development Allocation Grant / Neighborhood Revitalization Grant / Downtown Revitalization Grant / Critical Infrastructure Grant)

Application Submission:	June 26, 2015
Grant Award:	September 1, 2015

Economic Development Program

Applications may be submitted on a continuous basis throughout the program year, beginning on July 1, 2015. Awards will be made approximately 45 days after application submission.

Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Applications may be submitted on a continuous basis throughout the program year, beginning on July 1, 2015.

Target of Opportunity Grant Program

Note that the Target of Opportunity Grant Program includes: (A) Economic and Community Development, (B) Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grants, (C) Homelessness Grants and (D) Neighborhood Stabilization.

Application submissions will be accepted and grant awards will be made throughout the program year, with the Ohio Housing Trust Fund beginning on approximately March 28, 2015, and the other Target of Opportunity Programs due dates on June 13, 2015, based on funding availability or deadlines noted in the Target of Opportunity Program guidelines.

New Horizons Fair Housing Assistance Program

Application Submission:	June 13, 2015 through May 31, 2016.
Grant Award:	Approximately six weeks after submission

Geographic Distribution of Funds

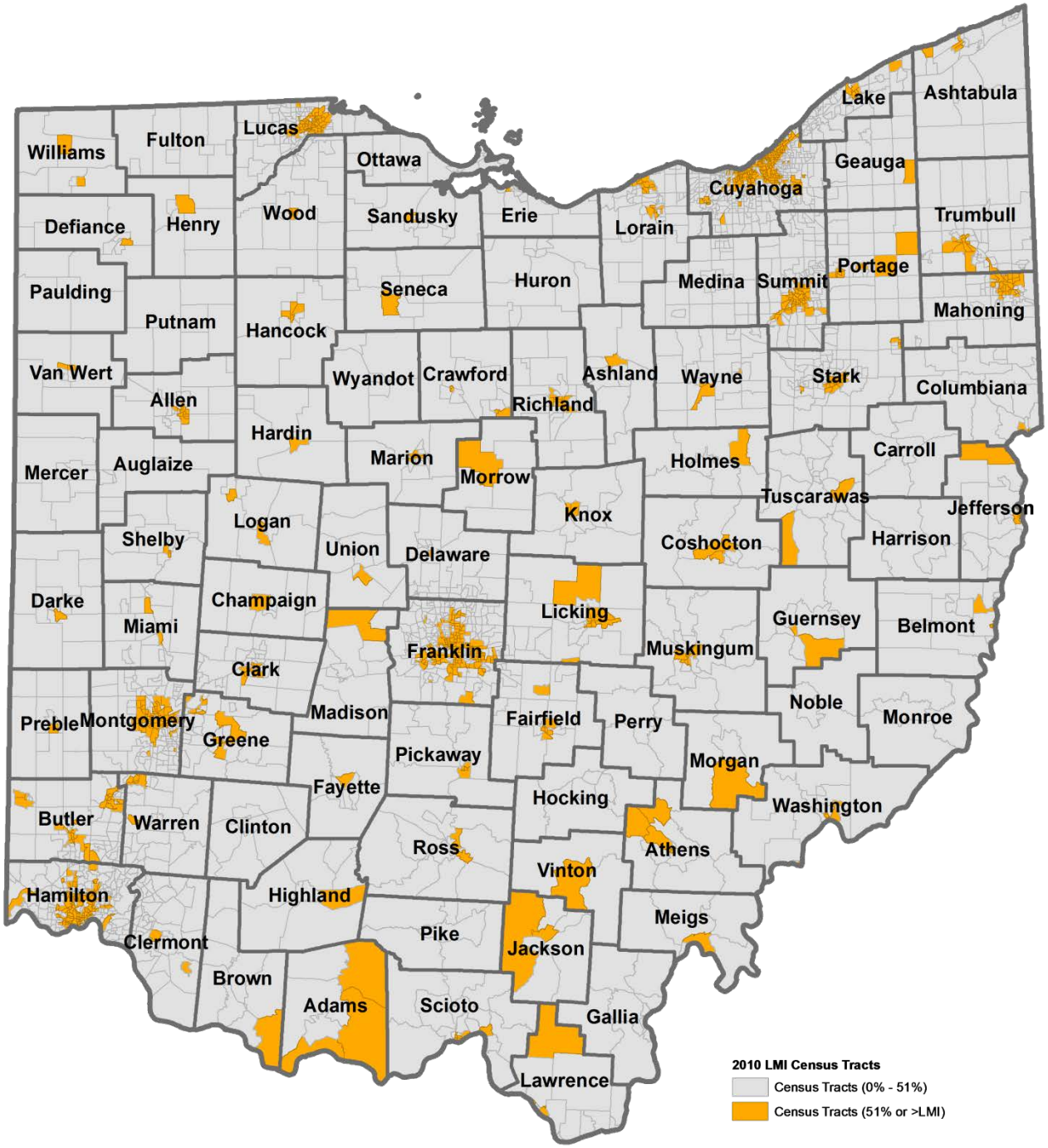
Overall, OCD does not have a geographic targeting strategy, insofar as it does not select areas of the state which will be exclusively awarded funding through a particular program. Such decisions are left to the local communities, which may restrict funding to particular neighborhoods or target specific geographic areas. However, many of OCD's competitive programs prioritize projects and activities that benefit communities with comparatively higher need levels. However, relative differences in local need is only one of many factors in the decision-making process.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Grants that are offered annually through the Community Development Program are the most highly geographically targeted funds. CDBG funds that have yet to be determined are targeted to neighborhoods and communities that are 51 percent or more low or moderate income, and are intended to address multiple needs in the community to make a significant impact on the overall quality of life in the area. The Community Development Program overall requires that communities receiving Community Development Allocation Grants target and expend at least 50 percent of their funding on local neighborhood target areas and other community needs in their local community development plans.

Map 3 shows the Census Tracts in the state that have 51 percent or more low- or moderate-income populations, based on the 2006 – 2010 American Community Survey information. Also, Map 4 shows the concentrations of minority households in the state, based on the 2010 U.S. Census minority population data for all census tracts within the state. Many of the lower-income areas have also been designated as targeted Investment Areas in their local communities.

It should be noted that not all of these federal funds are available in all areas of the state and some programs have placed limits on funding availability in certain geographic areas, particularly in areas of the state that receive additional direct funding from HUD. These restrictions are noted in the program descriptions in the Program Allocations section of the plan. Maps 5, 6, 7 and 8 show communities that receive direct allocations from the CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA Programs.

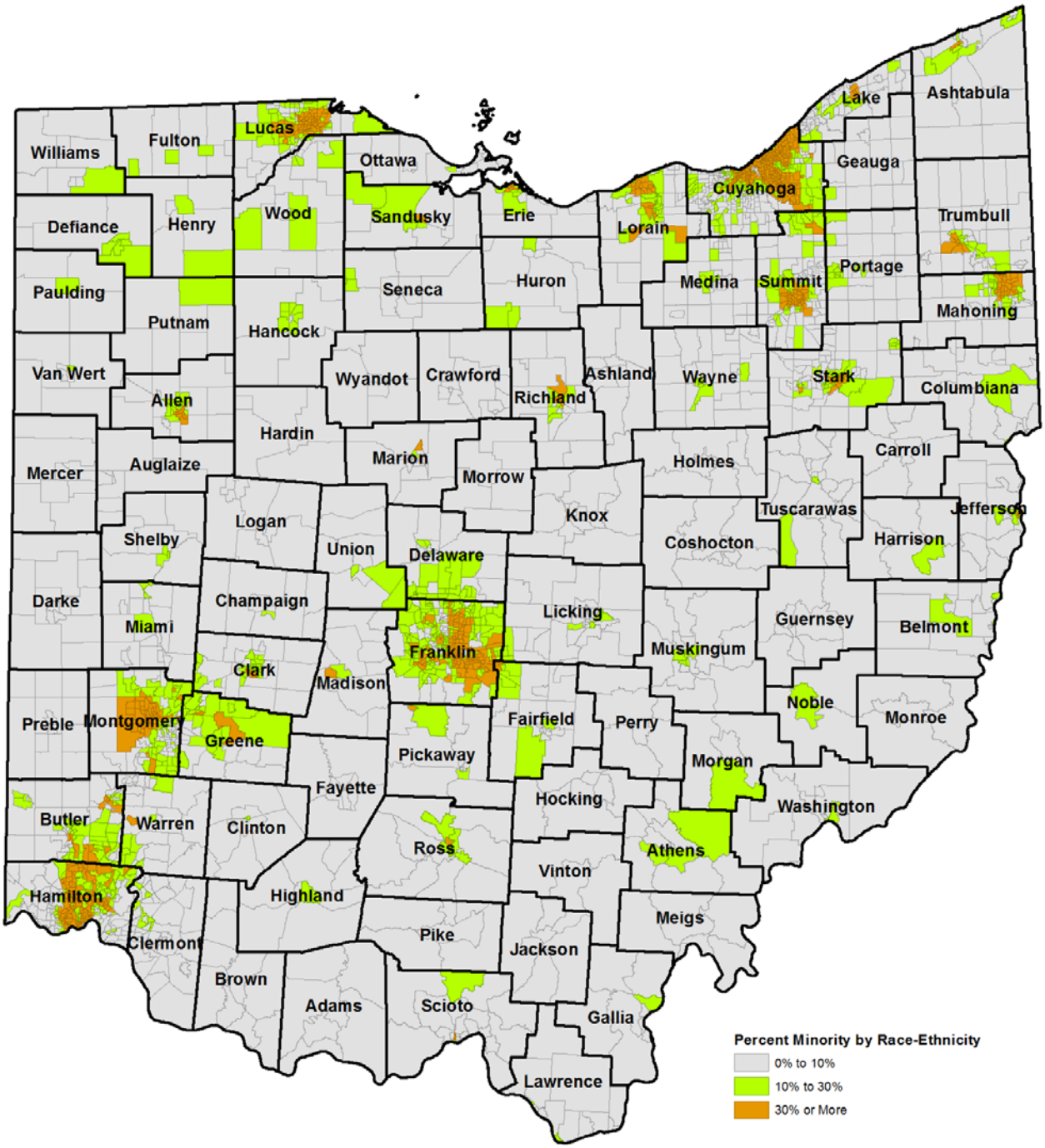
Map 3: Ohio Census Tracts with LMI Populations Greater than or Equal to 51 Percent



Source: 2006 - 2010 American Community Survey

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (October 2014)

Map 4: Ohio Census Tracts with Areas of Minority Concentration (2010)



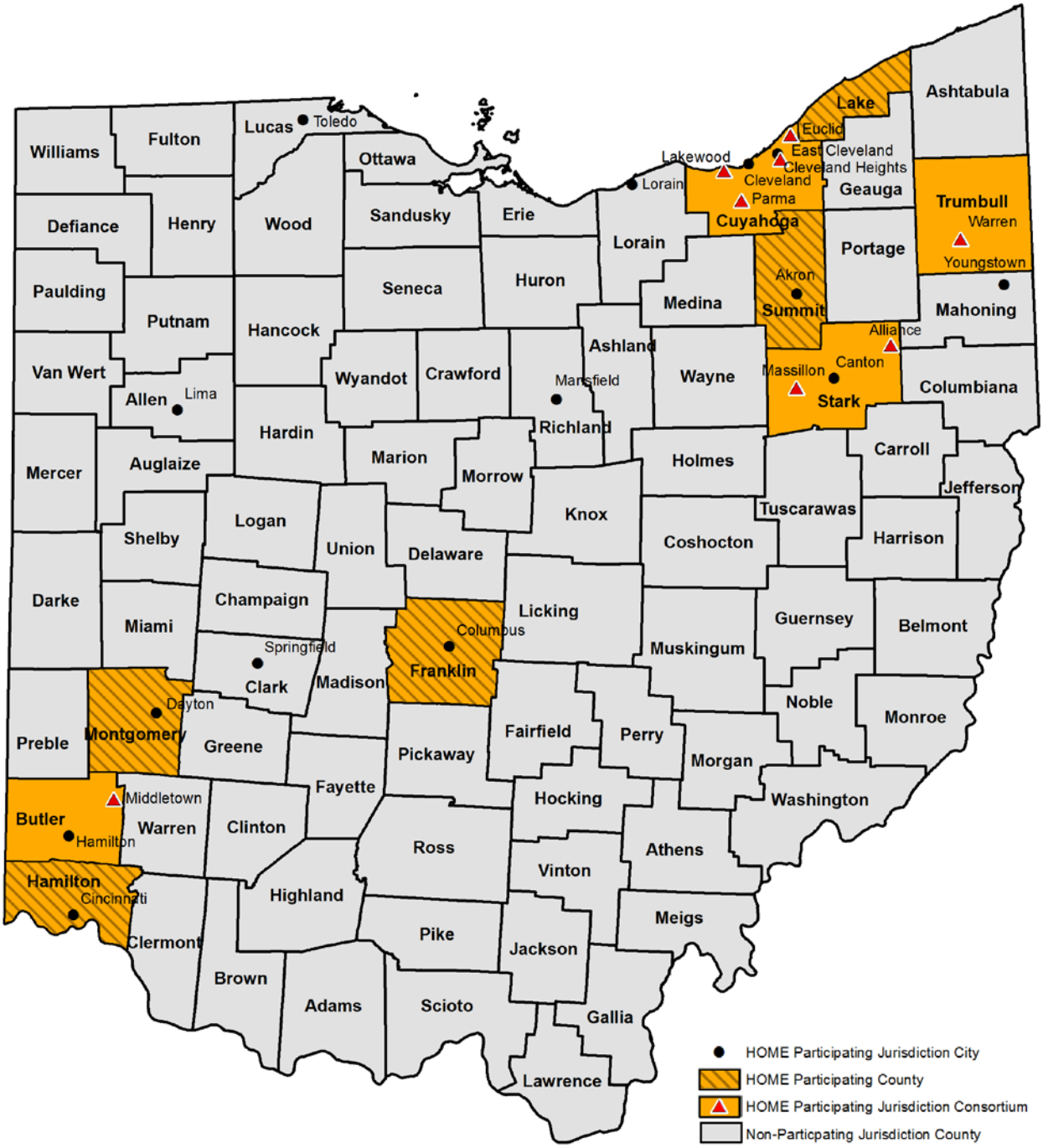
Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (December 2013)

Map 5: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG Program 2015 Entitlement Cities and Urban Counties

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (February 2015)

Map 6: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Investment Partnerships Program Participating and Non-Participating Jurisdictions

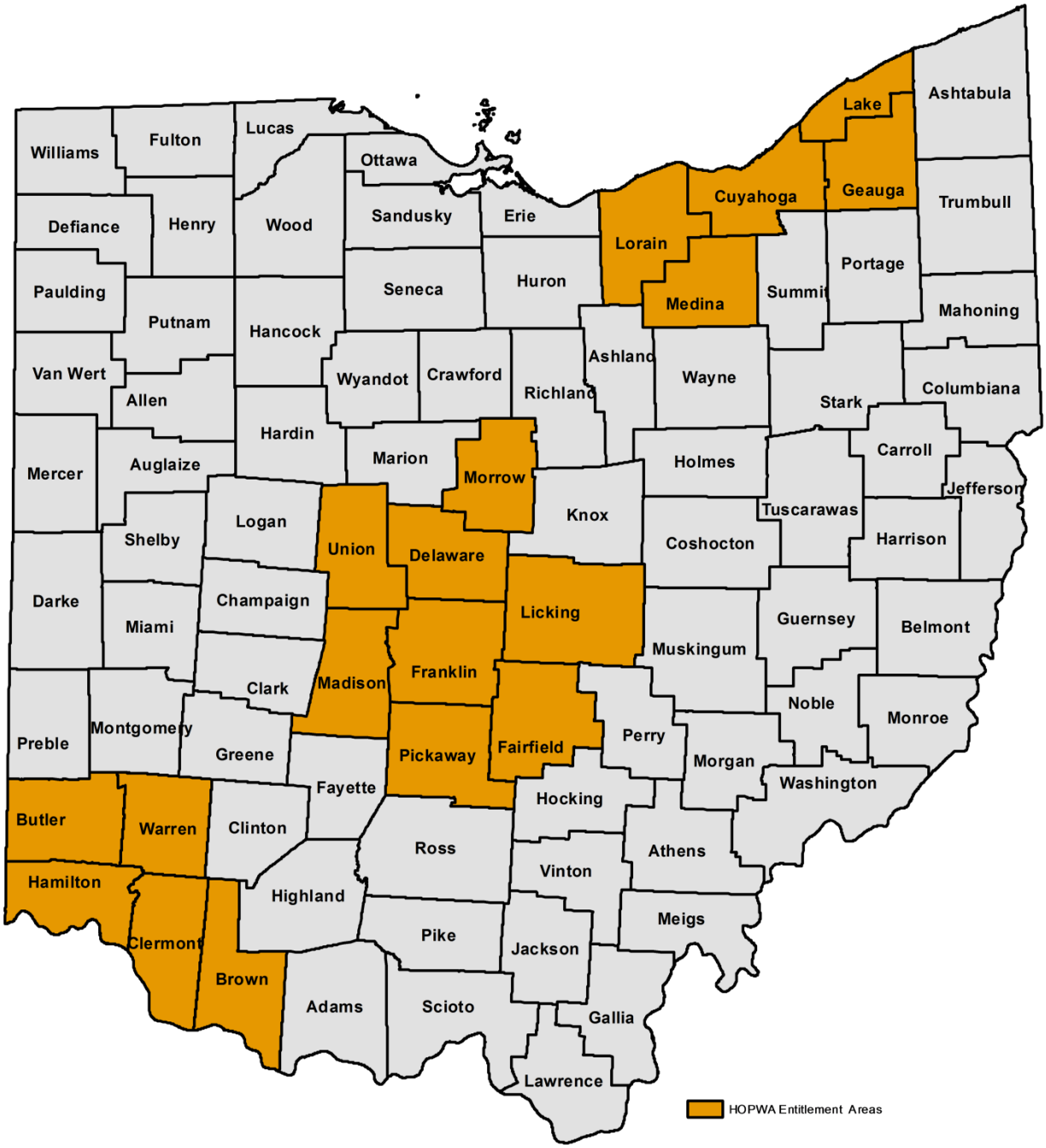


Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (December 2013)

Map 7: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Emergency Solutions Grant Program Entitlement Cities and Counties

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (December 2013)

Map 8: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Entitlement Areas



Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (December 2013)

Homeless and Non-Homeless Special Needs Activities / Continuum of Care Strategy

The state of Ohio will continue its continuum of care approach to homelessness in Ohio. This includes programs and services addressing each stage of the homeless continuum: homeless prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and aftercare programs.

The state of Ohio has restructured these homeless programs to emphasize priority on preventing individuals and families from experiencing homelessness and, where homelessness does occur, rapidly moving individuals and families into permanent, sustainable housing.

Homelessness Prevention

The state of Ohio will continue to provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless through the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) shelter diversion activities. Funds for these activities must be targeted to individuals and families who would be homeless without this assistance, and meet the following minimum criteria:

1) have at least an initial consultation with a case manager or other authorized representative who can determine the appropriate type of assistance to meet their needs;
2) be at or below 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI); and
3) be at risk of losing its housing, have no appropriate subsequent housing options and lack the financial resources and support networks needed to remain in existing housing.

Eligible assistance includes: short- or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

Rapid Re-Housing

The state of Ohio will provide for tenant-based (or “transition in place”) rapid re-housing through the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) shelter diversion activities. Persons served in this category must be homeless according to HUD’s definition and at or below 30 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Rapid Re-housing programs provide short- or medium-term rental assistance and services for households that are currently homeless, with the goal of being able to maintain housing after the subsidy ends. This assistance can include rental assistance (including back rent for months where the household has been unable to pay), utility deposits, security deposits, and/or moving costs. Housing models that require tenants to move out of their unit at the end of assistance are not eligible under this category.

Emergency Shelter

The state of Ohio will continue to provide Emergency Shelter assistance to homeless families and individuals through the Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP). HCRP funds provide emergency shelter and supportive services to homeless persons in Ohio. OCD provides grants to eligible nonprofit organizations and units of local government to maintain, operate and staff emergency shelters for the homeless and to provide essential services to the homeless.

Transitional Housing

The state of Ohio will provide Transitional Housing through the Supportive Housing Grant Program. This will include housing and supportive services designed to help program participants attain permanent housing in a 4- to 24-month period. Housing can be provided in units operated by the agency or in independent rental units in the community. For the purpose of this program, supportive housing activities are limited to facility-based or sponsor-based program models, either single-site or scattered-site. Tenant-based supportive housing activities are provided through the rapid re-housing activities in the Homeless Crisis Response Program.

Permanent Supportive Housing

The permanent supportive housing component of the Supportive Housing Grant Program provides housing and supportive services to maximize disabled homeless individuals' and families' ability to live more independently within the permanent housing environment. Along with housing, these projects provide supportive services including case management, employment assistance and life skills.

Aftercare

Aftercare services are designed to ensure that formerly homeless individuals and families are able to maintain permanent housing. These services include intensive case management and supportive services tailored to the individual's or family's goal of self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

In Ohio, aftercare services to formerly homeless families will be provided through the Homeless Crisis Response Program within the categories mentioned above.

Non-Homeless Special Needs

As in the past, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (ODODD) will provide substantial resources and a variety of programs to assist special needs non-homeless populations in the state (see the Resources section of the Consolidated Plan).

ODSA will also provide funding for non-homeless special needs populations through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program and Housing Assistance Grant Program. The HOPWA Program will provide nonprofit agencies with the resources to devise and implement long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting the housing needs of individuals and families with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases. The HOPWA Program provides the following housing and supportive services: short-term emergency rental and utility assistance, operating costs for community residences, assistance with finding affordable permanent housing, case management, respite care, day care, transportation, etc.

The Housing Assistance Grant Program will also continue to fund programs that provide housing assistance to the non-homeless special needs population. The Housing Assistance Grant Program will provide funding to programs that provide emergency home repair and accessibility modifications for low-income seniors.

Statewide Coordination

Statewide homeless policies will be coordinated through the Balance of State Continuum of Care Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives from state agencies, statewide coalitions and associations, and local homeless providers. The Advisory Committee also includes representatives from the realty and banking communities. The Advisory Committee expects to meet three times during the upcoming year to identify gaps in the state's continuum of care and develop policies and strategies to address those gaps. In addition, the Advisory Committee will participate in planning and developing the state's 2015 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance grant to HUD.

The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) will continue to promote a coordinated statewide approach to homelessness. For instance, during the past four years, the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Job and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Rehabilitation Services Commission and Aging have participated in planning and reviewing some ODSA applications.

A listing of the continuum of care objectives specific action steps is included on the COHHIO's website at http://www.cohhio.org/files/pdf/BOSCOC%20Perf%20Mgt%20Plan%20FINAL%202.2014.pdf. COHHIO's Performance Management Plan includes the following items that cover the Balance of State Continuum of Care:

Project Performance Measurement

Obtaining and Maintaining Permanent Housing

- At least 30% of participants in Emergency Shelter (ES) projects will move into permanent housing at exit
- At least 83% of participants in TH projects will move into permanent housing at exit
- At least 80% of project participants remain in PSH projects for six months or more
- At least 90% of project participants remain in PSH project or exit to permanent housing (PH) as of the end of the reporting period or at program exit

Accessing Mainstream Resources and Earned Income

- At least 15% of adult participants in ES projects will be employed at program exit
- At least 40% of adult participants in TH projects will be employed at program exit
- At least 50% of adult participants in Rapid Re-housing (RRH) projects will be employed at program exit
- At least 15% of adult participants in PSH projects will be employed at program exit
- At least 70% of adult participants in TH projects will maintain or increase their total income (from all sources) as of the end of the reporting period or at program exit
- At least 70% of adult participants in RRH projects will maintain or increase their total income (from all sources) as of the end of the reporting period or at program exit
- At least 50% of adult participants in PSH projects will maintain or increase their total income (from all sources) as of the end of the reporting period or at program exit
- At least 50% of participants in ES projects will receive at least one source of non-cash benefits at program exit
- At least 85% of participants in TH projects will receive at least one source of non-cash benefits at program exit
- At least 85% of participants in RRH projects will receive at least one source of non-cash benefits at program exit
- At least 85% of participants in PSH projects will receive at least one source of non-cash benefits at program exit

Length of Time Homeless

- ES projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 40 days
- Facility-based TH projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 240 days
- Voucher-based TH projects (also known as transition-in-place projects) will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 180 days
- RRH projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 150 days
- RRH projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 150 days

Setting Performance Objectives

Length of Time Homeless

- ES projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 40 days
- Facility-based TH projects will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 240 days
- Voucher-based TH projects (also known as transition-in-place projects) will have a participant average length of stay of no more than 180 days

Reducing Total Homelessness

- Reduce the total number of individuals and families who are homeless by 5% annually

Foster Care:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services require a life skills assessment to be completed on all youth in custody at age 16. They are then required to develop a life skills plan 30 days after the assessment is completed. The plan is to outline the youth's strengths, limitations, and resources. This plan is to be reviewed every 90 days or until custody is terminated.

Youth that have emancipated from care can request services and support from a Public Children's Service Agency (PCSA). The PCSA is required to evaluate the strengths and needs of the young adult and then develop a plan. The plan should outline the PCSA's and young adult's responsibilities. The PCSA may assist the young adult with room and board amongst other things. Most counties throughout the State of Ohio utilize an assessment provided by the Casey Life Skills for Youth Services. Casey Life Skills provide a supplement to the assessment that is devoted to homeless youth. This assessment particularly addresses the youth/young adult's current living situation, their health, employment and education.

Health Care:

Discussions are occurring in the area of a discharge plan policy for health care.

Mental Health:

Housing is a fundamental element of a community support program. Housing denotes a sense of permanence, a place where persons intend to reside. Providing shelter is a temporary option for homeless persons when a more stable residential option is absent. It is the policy of ODMHAS that homeless shelters are not appropriate living arrangements for persons with mental illness. Patients being discharged from ODMHAS Behavioral Health Organizations/Hospitals are not to be discharged to a shelter or to the street.

Community Support Network (CSN) programs are required to have emergency housing plans in place in the event their clients undergo unexpected residential change. This emergency housing plan must be approved by the relevant ODMHAS Behavioral Health Organization's (BHO) Chief Executive Office, the contracting Board for the CSN program, and the BHO CSN Coordinator.

ODMHAS BHO and CSN programs, in conjunction with the responsible or contracting Board or agency, shall exhaust all reasonable efforts to locate suitable housing options for patients being discharged. Patients in ODMHAS BHOs shall not be discharged to homeless shelters and clients in an ODMHAS CSN program shall not be removed or relocated from community housing options to homeless shelters unless the responsible board or contract agency has been involved in the decision-making process, it is the affected person expressed wishes and other placement options have been offered to the affected person and refused. When a discharge or relocation to a homeless shelter occurs under these guidelines, the reasons shall be thoroughly documented in the person's chart and reviewed via the BHO's quality improvement process. Persons may not be discharged or relocated to homeless shelters for staff convenience, as a punitive measure, or for expediency. ODMHAS BHO policies shall be consistent with this directive.

Corrections:

It is the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections' (ODRC) policy not discharge persons to the streets or to a shelter. ODRC provides a holistic and systematic approach to prepare an offender for a successful reentry into the community. This will begin at the offender's admission into the department, and continue until his or her final release from supervision. Reentry planning will address an offender's programming needs, linkages to the community and appropriate community supervision activities subsequent to release.

At approximately 180 days prior to release, offenders are offered release preparation classes that address areas such as job searching, resume writing, interviewing skills, job retention, community resources, goal setting and substance abuse, mental health and medical issues.

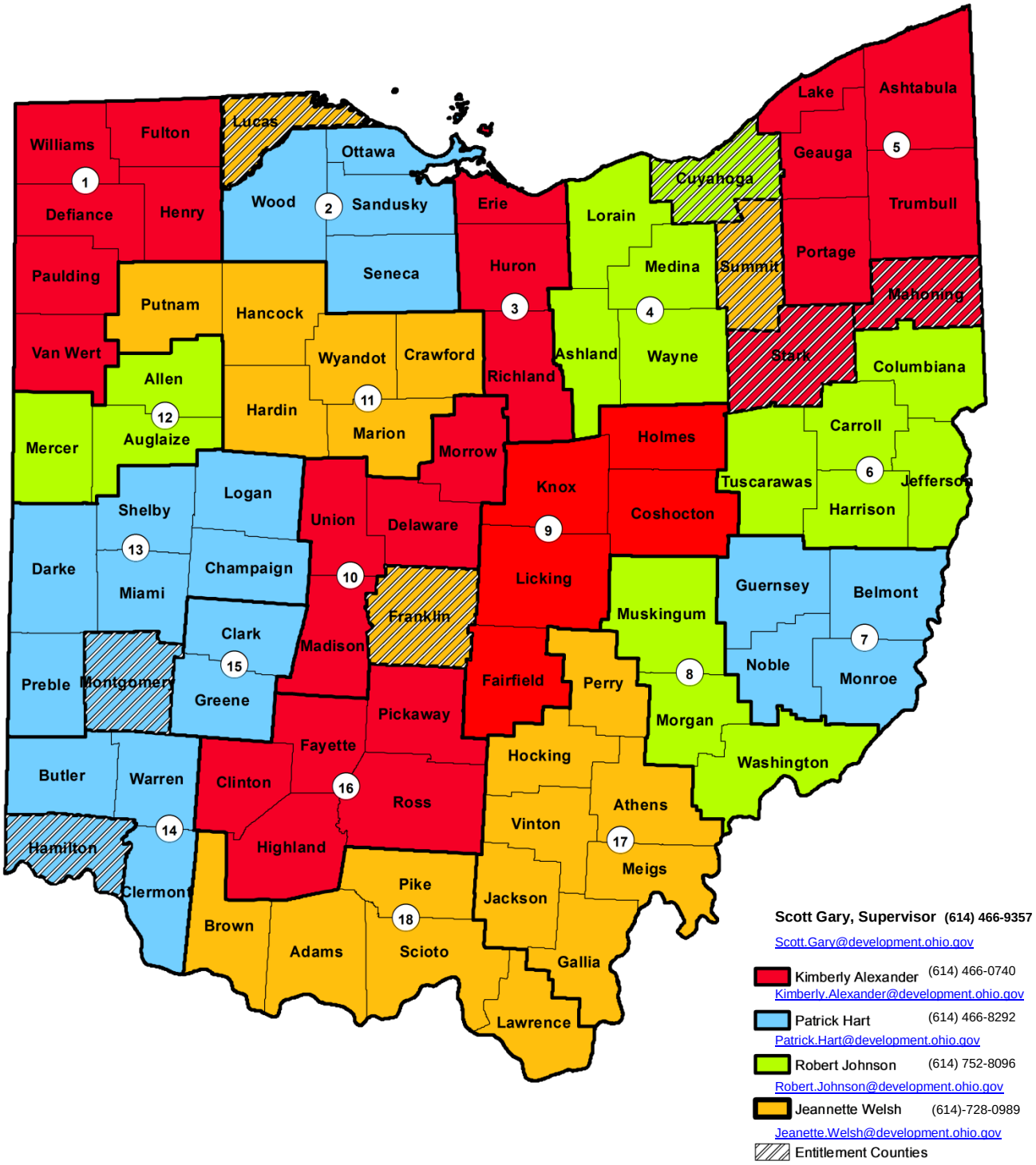
Between 90 and 120 days of release, case managers will assist offenders in determining potential housing options for release to the community. Potential housing options will be entered into the offender's reentry plan.

Within 90 days of release, case managers will review with offenders the need for appropriate documentations. If required, the case manager will assist the offender in acquiring those documents needed to identify and obtain employment. Such documents may include, but are not limited to, a Social Security replacement card, birth certificate, and Veteran's Discharge Status form. If applicable, appropriate community linkages will be made for offenders with substance abuse issues, mental health diagnoses and medical concerns. Currently, there are several pilot projects going on in the State of Ohio to increase an offender's ability to access Medicaid and social security more quickly and to be linked with mental health services and housing upon discharge.

Within 30 days of release, the case manager will finalize housing plans and the need for any other documentation for identification purposes. The case manager will also discuss possible transportation plans and secure transportation if necessary. All plans for final release will be documented in the offender's reentry plan.

In addition to the above, in December 2008, HB130 as enacted, created the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. The purpose of the Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. More information regarding the Reentry Coalition, as well as, other offender reentry efforts can be found in the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition's Five Year Strategic Plan for Program Years 2010-2014 at http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/docs/Ohio%20Ex-Offender%20Reentry%20Coalition%205%20year%20Strategic%20Plan(4%2015%2009).pdf

Map 9: Homelessness and Supportive Housing Grant Manager Regions



Other Actions Planned for 2015

1. Actions To Foster And Maintain Affordable Housing

The state of Ohio will work with other state and local agencies to address preventing foreclosures and to address the blighting influences of vacant and abandoned properties on neighborhoods. For example, funding through the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (HOME and CDBG) will target areas identified with the greatest need around the state of Ohio to address foreclosed, abandoned, and blighted homes within these neighborhoods. The state of Ohio will also continue to address foreclosures through the "Save the Dream" initiative. This initiative utilizes a hotline to connect homeowners in danger of foreclosure with counselors, legal services, and rescue funds, as a means to help them to avoid foreclosure.

2. Coordination With Low Income Housing Tax Credits

The state of Ohio is expected to distribute about $24 million in Housing Credits in 2015, also known as Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), which are allocated to both for-profit and nonprofit owners by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). LIHTC projects typically target populations with incomes and rents below 60 percent of Area Median Income, so additional financing subsidies are often needed. The Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) contains a separate set-aside, which offers funding solely in conjunction with the state's Housing Credit Program. This provides a more streamlined funding mechanism, so that tax credits and gap funds can be awarded through a single application process. To further expedite the request reviews for funding and to assure that no project receives more subsidy than necessary, OHFA has established an application, which is used to apply for housing credits, affordable housing loans and HDAP.

3. Actions To Address Underserved Needs

The state of Ohio will continue to undertake a number of actions during PY 2015 to meet underserved needs in the state. To ensure that statewide programs are responsive to local needs, ODSA will continue to support creating homeless advisory groups made up of representatives from nonprofit homeless organizations and advocacy groups from across the state. These advisory groups provide a forum for assessing ODSA programs' design and implementation. These groups are also instrumental in identifying underserved areas in the state.

Many areas of the state lack sufficient capacity to provide a continuum of care approach to homelessness in their community. The state of Ohio will continue to work with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) to develop that capacity. Specifically, local nonprofits and communities will be provided technical assistance for developing a local continuum of care approach to homelessness. This includes assistance in assessing local needs and improving local coordination.

ODSA will also provide technical assistance to local nonprofits to increase the range of services available in underserved areas of the state. This will consist of helping nonprofit agencies develop programs that will provide services to underserved areas of the state. In addition, ODSA will continue to evaluate and fund projects based partly on the extent to which there are unmet needs in the local community.

4. Actions To Reduce Negative Effects Of Public Policies On Housing

As HUD itself noted in the March 13, 2006 regulations revising the Consolidated Plan requirements, states have less control over barrier removal than do entitlement jurisdictions and cited comments by a group representing state community development agencies that it was difficult for states to meet goals for affordable housing barrier removal because states have very minimal control over the major barriers identified by HUD (zoning, local fees, etc.). Zoning and land use decision-making are an inherently local process, subject to a range of influences including market forces and citizen input.

This is certainly true in Ohio, which has a long tradition of local "home-rule" self-governance. In recognizing this reality, OCD instead has required each of its local Community Development Allocation

grantees (which cover the entire non-entitlement area of the state) to conduct a local Analysis of Impediments and devise a strategy and a schedule to address them. These analyses are required to include an assessment of local regulations and policies that may create barriers to creating or accessing affordable housing. OCD requires communities to submit their Impediments Analysis for review. During this year and subsequent years, communities will be offered assistance to rectify any deficiencies that OCD staff identified in these local Analyses of Impediments.

5. Actions To Reduce Lead-Based Paint Hazards

OCD is proposing the following activities to address lead-based paint hazards during PY 2015:

1. In PY 2015 OCD and ODSA will require grantees to follow the Lead-Based Paint Guidelines on page 103.

2. OCD has developed a chapter within its Housing Standards, the Residential Rehabilitation Standards (RRS) that addresses lead-based paint. OCD will require all grantees undertaking housing rehabilitation activities to meet these standards.

3. OCD will continue to provide funding for locally administered housing rehabilitation programs, which are expected to rehabilitate about 450 owner units and 75 renter units with PY 2015 funding. Housing units that undergo rehabilitation are required to be made lead-safe.

4. OCD will provide training and technical assistance for local program staff and local lead hazard mitigation personnel, which will include the following activities:

    - Make the Remodeler's and Renovator's Training Program available to contractors and workers throughout the state, and especially in areas served by the CHIP Program. OCD will continue to use Training and Technical Assistance funds to keep the training sessions affordable to housing rehabilitation contractors.

    - Provide affordable training for Lead Risk Assessors and Lead Clearance Technicians, as needed, especially for persons who are implementing local CHIP grant activities.

    - Provide on-site technical assistance to local CHIP grantees through a third-party contractor/trainer.

    - OCD will provide other forms of training and technical assistance support to local programs and hazard control personnel. This may include further specialized training sessions for housing program administrators, as well as preparing and distributing training materials. OCD will continue to maintain current reference information on its website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_traintech.htm

5. OCD will explore other funding sources that could assist local communities, nonprofit organizations or contractors to address lead-based paint hazards. This will include coordinating efforts with the Ohio Department of Health to identify funding sources that can assist low- and moderate-income households in paying for lead hazard mitigation costs, especially in housing units where a lead hazard control order has been issued by the Ohio Department of Health. This may include submitting an application for a HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant.

6. Maintain lines of communication with federal, state and local agencies and organizations involved with the lead-based paint issues and activities, including:

    - Distributing information directly to grantees, organizations, local health departments and other organizations, as necessary.

- Attending meetings and trainings with organizations, grantees, etc. as needed to disseminate information, discuss issues and obtain information on lead-based paint issues.

- Staff of the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will continue to coordinate and communicate their policies and activities, and will work closely with HUD and other federal agency staff to keep up-to-date on regulatory requirements and issues. OCD/ODSA staff will attend the Lead Advisory Council meetings and participate in the Environmental Primary Prevention Workgroup.

OCD has begun reporting the total number of units that have been made lead-safe as part of the performance measurement system.

Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)
Lead-Based Paint Guidelines
January 2014

The following guidance is provided to assist housing projects or programs using federal or state funds provided through the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA).

1. Regardless of any information provided in these guidelines, all existing federal, state or local laws, regulations and procedures concerning lead-based paint must be followed. Awareness and adherence to these regulations is the responsibility of the agency performing or contracting for housing rehabilitation activities. Procedures for distributing information on lead-based paint hazards, including appropriate disclosure notices, must be integrated into any and all housing-related activities.

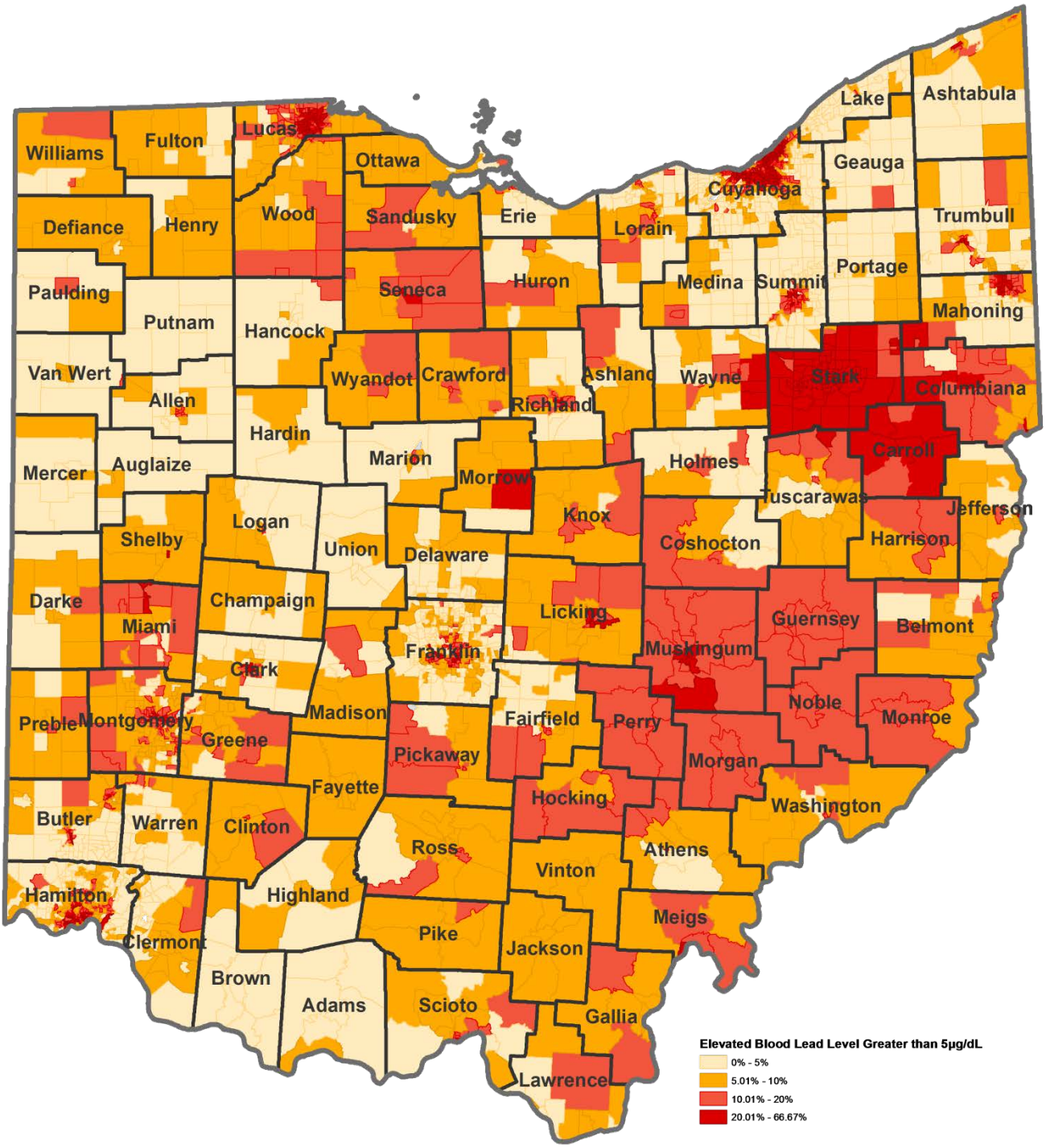
2. Local communities must develop local strategies for addressing lead-based paint in housing as part of their Consolidated Plan or, for non-HUD Entitlement communities, as part of their Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS). This strategy will need to include policy on units containing children with Elevated Blood Lead levels, which, pursuant to the provisions of H.B. 248, requires lead hazard controls to be applied by licensed lead abatement contractors.

3. Except where all lead-based paint is removed, if lead hazard mitigation activities are performed on renter-occupied units financed with HUD funds or other funds covered by these policy guidelines, the owner of the units must incorporate a schedule of lead-based paint maintenance activities into regular building operations consistent with 24 CFR Part 35.935.

4. If state funding is used to directly assist housing projects or activities constructed prior to 1978, both state regulatory requirements and 24 CFR Part 35 must be followed. (Direct state assistance excludes state bond financing, state or federal tax-credits, and pre-development assistance, unless federal assistance is also involved.)

5. Agencies involved in lead-based paint hazard mitigation are encouraged to coordinate efforts with local governments, state and local health departments, Community Action Agencies, other nonprofit organizations, local housing authorities, and private sector organizations wherever possible.

Map 10: 2012 Observed Census Tracts with Elevated Blood Lead Levels of Greater than 5 µg/dL



Source: Ohio Department of Health

Prepared by the Office of Community Development
Community Services Division
Ohio Development Services Agency (October 2014)

6. Activities to Strengthen And Improve the Institutional Structure / Training and Technical Assistance

Below is a listing of the training sessions that OCD plans to provide during PY 2015. Other training and technical assistance initiatives will likely be offered in addition to those listed here, but these are the areas that OCD will focus on during the upcoming year.

1. Program Application and Implementation Trainings. These will be set up by each program manager during the year as appropriate. Programs will include:

   - Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP)
   - Economic Stimulus Program (if authorized by the federal government)
   - Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program
   - Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program
   - Community Development Program
   - Neighborhood Revitalization Grants

2. Training in support of Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control:

   - Lead-Safe Renovation (Renovator's and Remodeler's Training Program)
   - Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Training
   - Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Training Refresher
   - Lead Supervisor/ Contractor Training
   - Lead Supervisor/Contractor Training Refresher
   - On-site Technical Assistance
   - EPA Renovation and Remodeling Refresher four-hour update training for those who have previously attended *"Lead Safe Renovation Training."* Successful completion of this training qualifies as certification in the EPA RRP training which is required for all contractors as of May 2010.

3. OCD will investigate various sources of fair housing/fair lending information available on the Internet and disseminate information to grantees.

4. OCD will partner with agencies to provide training on access to lending issues.

5. OCD will continue to provide funds to statewide and regional nonprofits to act as intermediaries that can help groups through program design, provide direct technical assistance and help with fund raising strategies. It is anticipated that the following groups will apply for the funds:

   - Ohio Community Development Corporation's Association
   - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
   - Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
   - Heritage Ohio, Inc.
   - Ohio Conference on Community Development

6. OCD will continue to offer training and technical assistance by providing funding to intermediary organizations to conduct training and technical assistance activities. Training and technical assistance support may include the following subjects:

   - Building nonprofit organization staff's basic and intermediate skills in designing and developing projects.

- Training and technical assistance for local microenterprise programs.
- Training on establishing and operating Individual Development Accounts (IDAs).
- Training for developing and implementing Community Economic Development (CED) strategies.
- Training to develop Welfare to Work initiatives.
- Training and technical assistance for downtown development programs.
- Training and technical assistance for supportive housing programs.
- Training and technical assistance on housing development in the state of Ohio's Appalachian area.
- Training to develop capacity to implement housing development projects.
- Continue to provide training on the National Main Street approach for extended technical assistance to the Ohio Main Street Communities.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to grantees and applicants for the OCD Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program through Downtown Assessment Team (DART) visits and community visits as requested.
- Heritage Ohio will conduct workshops and an Annual Conference.
- COHHIO will continue to assist with implementing and evaluating the HCRP Program
- COHHIO will conduct workshops and trainings to increase administrative capacity of agencies that provide assistance to the homeless and near homeless.

7. OCD will continue to develop its Internet site to include reference and resource material related to program implementation and management.

8. OCD will conduct environmental review training.

9. OCD will develop a revised training for persons who are new to implementing CDBG, HOME, and supportive housing programs.

10. OCD will conduct training on technical issues related to construction, national objectives, procurement, construction management, planning and innovative project designs.

11. OCD will continue to work with Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc. to provide training recommended by its membership, including CDBG and HOME Certification courses.

7. Actions To Reduce The Number Of Families That Are Below The Poverty Level

Ohio Works First

In Ohio and throughout the nation, the effort to reform the welfare system was undoubtedly the most significant action taken in many years to attempt to break the cycle of poverty. In Ohio, welfare reform, known as Ohio Works First (OWF), was initiated in 1997 by H.B. 408. The financial-assistance portion of the state's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, OWF provides cash benefits to needy families for up to 36 months. OWF requires at least 50 percent of adults receiving benefits to work or engage in work-related activities, such as educational or training programs. For more information about this program, visit http://jfs.ohio.gov/owf/.

About the same time it initiated welfare reform, Congress also passed the Workforce Investment Act to reform federal job training programs and create a new, comprehensive workforce investment system. The reformed system is intended to be customer-focused, to help Americans access the tools they need to manage their careers through information and high-quality services, and to help U.S. companies find skilled workers.

As a result, Ohio convened a State WIA Implementation Team. The State WIA Implementation Team included representatives from the Departments of Education, Aging, Human Services (now the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services), Development Services Agency, Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Some of the roles of the state team included:

- Making recommendations for the design of the new workforce development system;
- Staffing specific initiatives of the State Workforce Investment Board;
- Facilitating technical assistance to local employment systems; and
- Research and information gathering.

The State WIA Implementation Team also developed several work groups to address a variety of specific issues. ODSA staff will assist with several of these workgroups: Performance Measurement, Service Delivery, Local Area Designations and State Workforce Investment Board Structure. For more information about Ohio's implementation of WIA, go to http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/index.stm.

As a result of WIA, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) receives federal funds to administer several federal workforce programs, which it does by overseeing a network of 30 full-service "One-Stop Centers" across the state. One-Stop Centers provide free job training and other employment services to Ohioans looking for work. They match job seekers with businesses looking to hire workers, and help laid-off workers learn new skills and find new jobs. Unemployed workers can go to their local One-Stop to find out if they might be eligible for training assistance, Trade Adjustment Assistance, adult education services, veterans' services or apprenticeship opportunities.

Since October 2008, through a partnership with leading edge private sector resources, Ohio job seekers can go to OhioMeansJobs.com for free access to more than 100,000 job openings, including full-time, part-time, contract, internship and temporary work. They can use Ohio Means Jobs to learn about upcoming recruitment events, and search for jobs by a variety of filters, including company names, occupational titles, location and salary requirements. This innovative tool has been extremely successful in helping unemployed Ohioans regain their financial self-sufficiency.

The Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) program, part of Ohio's TANF program, has been an integral part of the state's efforts to reduce poverty. Prevention services are designed to divert families from ongoing cash assistance by helping them through times of crisis. Retention services allow employed TANF recipients to maintain employment. Contingency services help families meet emergent needs which, if not met, threaten the safety, health or well-being of one or more family members. PRC benefits are available at county departments of job and family services and vary from county to county based on local needs. For more information, go to http://jfs.ohio.gov/factsheets/PRC.pdf.

Programs and Activities That Directly Support Job Training and Development

Apart from restructuring the human services and workforce development framework, assistance will be provided to local communities through the following programs to directly support local job training, job creation and business development.

1. The Community Services Block Grant Program, offered through the Office of Community Assistance (OCA). OCA, which has a goal of removing obstacles and solve problems that block the achievements of self-sufficiency for low-income persons, will distribute $27 million in federal funds to 52 certified community action agency providers. Activities will be locally

determined based on needs assessments. Services will be quantified within 10 work plans: Employment, Education, Income Management, Housing, Emergency Services, Nutrition, Linkages with Other Programs, Self-Sufficiency, and Other.

2. The Office of Community Development's Economic Development provide loan, grant and technical assistance to communities to create jobs which principally benefit low- and moderate- income persons (refer to the method of distribution section for a complete description of the resources that will be committed through these two programs).

3. ODSA created the Workforce and Talent Division and transferred staff from ODJFS. The Workforce and Talent Division administers the Ohio Investment in Training Program (OITP) which assists manufacturing and manufacturing-related industries by financially supporting employee training. OITP provides grants of up to 50 percent of allowable training costs to an individual company.

4. The Business Services Division assists JobsOhio to administer financing programs to provide direct loans and bonds for businesses locating or expanding in Ohio that demonstrate that they will create or retain jobs in Ohio.

5. The Business Services Division administers the Business Development (412) Account, the Roadwork Development (629) Account and the Urban and Rural Initiative Grant Program (442). In addition, the Division administers the Ohio Steel Industry Advisory Council, the Ohio Agri-Industry Council and Ohio's Site Selection System.

6. The Office of Business Development administers the Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit, the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Investment Tax Credit and the Brownfield Site Clean-up Tax Credit. The Office also administers and assists local implementation of Ohio's property tax incentive programs which include: the Enterprise Zone Program, the Voluntary Action Program, Community Reinvestment Areas, and Tax Increment Financing.

8. Affirmative Marketing and Fair Housing Activities

1. OCD will continue to support developing a strong fair housing network through meetings and coordination with organizations, groups and agencies, including lenders, realtors, local fair housing administrators, state agencies and others.

2. OCD will continue to provide direct funding to support local fair housing programs through the Community Development, Community Housing Impact and Preservation, and New Horizons Programs.

3. OCD will prioritize the review of shelter and supportive housing program marketing and fair housing compliance.

4. Local governments' fair housing responsibilities are described under the Local Government Certifications to the State heading.

5. OCD will provide additional emphasis on fair housing compliance related to the Community Development Program and CHIP.

6. OCD will provide training to fair housing and housing providers on fair housing issues and specifically issues related to implementing the state's standard fair housing program. One-on-one assistance will also be provided throughout the year.

7. OCD will continue to promote consolidating fair housing efforts and resources through establishing consortia of local government. OCD will continue to receive and review Affirmative Marketing Plans for housing developed with five or more units. Assistance will be given to nonprofits and agencies in constructing and implementing appropriate actions. An Affirmative Marketing Handbook and Ohio Fair Housing Guide will continue to be disseminated.

8. OCD will continue to provide a funding source (i.e., the New Horizons Program) for applicants who desire to implement fair housing initiatives beyond the scope of the state's standard fair housing program requirements. OCD will continue to encourage communities to pool their financial and human resources in fair housing by developing a consortium of communities.

9. OCD will continue to coordinate with fair housing agencies and advocates through meetings, training, newsletters, and other forms of collaboration.

10. OHFA will conduct training and educational outreach to housing providers and developers on issues related to fair housing.

11. OCD will coordinate with organizations that assist persons with disabilities (i.e. independent living centers) to identify accessible CDBG, HOME, and OHTF assisted units.

12. OCD will provide fair housing training specifically for CDP and CHIP.

13. OCD will assist the Ohio Civil Rights Commission in holding forums on civil rights issues throughout the state.

14. OCD will hold round table discussion groups on fair housing and community development.

9. Addressing the Needs of Public Housing

The state of Ohio nor any of its agencies are designated as a public housing authority nor do they administer public housing units. These functions are performed by local public housing authorities within the state. Insofar as the state can determine and as indicated on HUD's website, there are no troubled housing authorities in the state of Ohio at the present time. The continued reductions in HUD funding to the state make it increasingly difficult for the state to continue to implement programs that assist local communities and persons, notwithstanding providing assistance to troubled public housing authorities. The state does not administer public housing units or oversee housing authorities, but as the civil rights compliance regulations are the same as the OCD housing program regulations, OCD is able to provide direct technical assistance to these agencies upon request. It is not clear what resources the state could provide to assist a troubled public housing authority, especially prior to an agency being designated as such. Certainly, should a PHA be designated as "troubled", the state would attempt to provide support to the agency, most likely using available funds from the 2 percent technical assistance CDBG funds to provide third party, perhaps a peer-to-peer, mentoring or technical assistance.

10. Coordination With Other Agencies And Organizations

The programs and activities that will be carried out by OCD staff over the next year will involve coordination with a number of agencies and organizations, many of which are identified on Table 11 on the following two pages, along with a description of the type of coordination that will take place.

Table 11: Planned Interagency Coordination for PY 2015

Organization/Agency	Coordination
Heritage Ohio, Inc. (HOI)	OCD staff will attend the HOI meetings in order to exchange information to help facilitate the implementation of OCD's Downtown Revitalization Grants Program. HOI is a recipient of a Training and Technical Assistance grant, and works with OCD to provide assistance to small communities interested in downtown revitalization activities.
Balance of State Continuum of Care Committee	Statewide homeless policies and services will be coordinated through the committee. The committee will assist in the preparation of the Ohio Balanace of State Continuum of Care application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)	Representatives from the Ohio Department of Mental Health will participate in the planning and review of the Homeless Crisis Response Program, Supportive Housing Program and balance of state Continuum of Care applications. Representative also advise OHFA on provision of rental housing and necessary services for its population.
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Mitigation Committee	OCD will be involved in the efforts of FEMA and the State Mitigation Committee to allocate funds to Ohio counties experiencing disaster-related events.
Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group (SCEIG)	OCD representatives will discuss the financing of water and sewer projects with local and state entities. SCEIG established the Water and Wastewater Technology Committee, which will research water and wastewater treatment technologies.
National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) and Ohio Association of Human Rights Workers	OCD will work with these associations to encourage the collection and dissemination of ideas, information and research among organizations and individuals involved in civil and human rights issues.
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA)	OCD will continue to work with OACAA and its member agencies, especially by drawing upon the expertise and knowledge of CAA staff to administer an implement programs funded through OCD.
Ohio Access	OCD will continue to work with the Ohio Access Task Force to implement its vision statement of developing state agencies policies to promote Ohio's seniors and people with disabilities live with dignity in settings they prefer, maximize their employment, self-care, interpersonal relationships and community participation, and government programs that honor and support the role of families and friends who provide care.
Ohio Conference of Community Development (OCCD)	OCD and OCCD co-sponsor conferences to benefit all Ohio communities. OCCD's State Program Committee reviews OCD programs and policies, and the State Program Training Committee coordinates training issues and activities with OCD.
Ohio Department of Health (ODH)	OCD will coordinate its lead-based paint activities with staff of the Ohio Department of Health, which will include training, housing, and policy development. OCD will also coordinate with ODH on the development and implementation of a statewide Healthy Home/Housing plan.

Table 11: Planned Interagency Coordination for PY 2015 (continued from previous page)

Organization/Agency	Coordination
Community Development Finance Fund (CDFF)	OCD will coordinate efforts with the CDFF to provide both pre-development and project financing to non-profit organizations.
Ohio CDC Association	OCD will coordinate efforts with the CDC Association on the microenterprise program, non-profit housing and other related activities. OHFA works with the CDC Association on operating support for CHDOs and awards of funding through HDAP.
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)	OCD staff will coordinate efforts with COHHIO relative to training, programs and activities relative to homelessness and housing. COHHIO will participate in preparation of state's Continuum of Care application. A representative of COHHIO also serves on the OHFA housing credit advisory committee.
Interagency Acquisition and Relocation Task Force	OCD staff will serve on this task force to address uniformity issues related to acquisition and relocation procedures and policies.
Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC)	OCD's fair housing coordinator will work with staff of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to address issues of mutual concern relative to civil rights and fair housing.
Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO)	OCD staff will coordinate with OHPO staff in addressing historic preservation issues that arise relative to housing, economic and community development projects, as well as providing training on preservation issues and procedures.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	OCD will work with providers and COHHIO on the effective implementation of the balance of state's HMIS. The major focus will be on increasing the data quality of participants and development of a better reporting capacity.
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS)	OCD staff will coordinate with ODADAS to market and provide technical assistance to any OCD/ODADAS affiliated organization interested in applying for OHTF Housing Assistance Grant Program funds.
Ohio Captital Corporation for Housing (OCCH)	OCD staff will coordinate with OCCH to market and provide a series of housing development trainings throughout the state. OHFA works with OCCH in connection with the development of the housing credit program.
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)	OCD will coordinate with COAD to provide training on lead-safe housing rehabilitation procedures to reduce lead hazards existing in low-moderate income housing stock.
Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (ICHAH)	OCD will coordinate with the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing to develop appropriate housing strategies for homeless persons and families.
ACTION Ohio	OCD staff serves on the board of this statewide coalition against domestic violence, advocating for victims, survivors and their families
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)	OCD staff will work with SILC to promote equal access and full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream society.

Performance Measures

In 2003, HUD issued a notice on Performance Measures, strongly encouraging grantees to develop and use a state or local performance measurement system. Though a great deal of "output" measurement data (number of units, linear feet, etc.) is reported to HUD annually, HUD is looking for "outcome" data that shows how HUD programs impact communities and people's lives. OCD and OHFA developed a performance measurement system as part of the PY 2015–2019 Consolidated Plan Strategy. The system first involved establishing a set of objectives for each area (housing, community development and economic development) that would demonstrate outcomes (i.e., impacts). Then, one or more performance measures were established for each objective that would indicate the extent to which the objective was achieved. The objectives and performance measures will be stated each year in the Action Plan for that year, while the numerical outcomes (impacts) will appear in the Annual Performance Report. The performance measures for PY 2015 are located below.

PY 2015 – 2019 Performance Measures

Housing Performance Measures – Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program, Community Development Program and Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program (service lines and tap-ins)

Goal: To provide funding for a flexible, community-wide approach to improving and providing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income (LMI) persons, and to help develop local administrative capacity.

Housing Preservation and Accessibility

Objective 1: Preserve affordable owner and renter housing for lower-income households by bringing the housing unit up to program standards and codes, eliminating hazards and deficiencies in major systems, and reducing maintenance cost.

Measure 1: Owner / Renter units brought to standard

Objective 2: Eliminate lead-based paint hazards by applying interim control measures based on a risk assessment followed by a clearance examination.

Measure 1: Number of units where lead hazards have been mitigated and passed clearance

Objective 3: Improve affordability by reducing housing costs to lower-income households through energy efficiency improvements.

Measure 1: Number of units made more energy efficient

Objective 4: Make modifications to dwelling units occupied by persons with disabilities or special needs to improve accessibility.

Measure 1: Number of units modified to improve accessibility for special needs persons

Creating New Affordable Housing Opportunities

Objective 5: Expand housing opportunities for LMI households, by providing assistance that will enable them to acquire affordable housing that meets program and local standards.

Measure 1: Number of new affordable housing units added to the housing stock
Measure 2: Number of families provided assistance to enable them to become first-time homeowners by acquiring an existing affordable and appropriate housing unit
Measure 3: Number of persons or families provided with rental assistance to enable them to acquire or maintain affordable, safe and sanitary housing

Measure 4: Households assisted with acquiring housing to relieve an overcrowded housing situation (1.01 persons per room or more)
Measure 5: Number of affordability/unit years created
Measure 6: Households that could not be assisted due to poor credit or other problems

Neighborhood Revitalization

Objective 6: Employ housing resources as part of an overall neighborhood revitalization strategy to address locally designated neighborhood revitalization areas that have multiple housing and community development needs and a high concentration of lower-income populations.

Measure 1: Number of housing units rehabilitated as part of a neighborhood revitalization strategy
Measure 2: Number of in-fill housing units constructed as part of an overall neighborhood revitalization strategy

Supportive Housing Counseling Activities

Objective 7: Provide supportive housing counseling services to assist lower-income households with acquiring or maintaining housing.

Measure 1: Number of persons or families provided with housing counseling services to help them acquire housing or maintain their current housing

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Commit CDBG and HOME funds annually to the support the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program to provide housing assistance to local communities with an approved housing plan to address locally identified housing and community development needs.

Strategy 2: Enable Community Development programs to utilize CDBG funding for home repair activities**.**

Housing Performance Measures - Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP)

Goal: The goal of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's (OHFA) Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) is to provide financing for eligible housing developments to expand the supply of quality affordable housing for people with very low or moderate income in the state of Ohio.

Objective 1: Expand affordable and accessible rental housing opportunities for lower-income persons and families in Ohio by using HOME funds to provide gap financing in conjunction with other funding sources, including Ohio Housing Tax Credits, to fund approximately 30 affordable developments and create about 1,200 units of affordable rental housing units annually.

Measure 1: Number of affordable developments/units at least partially funded with HOME gap financing

Objective 2: Create long-term affordable rental housing opportunities for a range of incomes by partially funding the development with HOME funds.

Measure 1: Number of developments/units funded that have affordable units for five years
Measure 2: Number of developments/units funded that have affordable units for 10 years
Measure 3: Number of developments/units funded that have affordable units for 20 years

Objective 3: Expand rental opportunities for extremely low-income households by partially funding developments with HOME funds.

Measure 1: Number of developments/units partially funded by HOME funds that have units affordable to households at or below 35 percent area median gross income (AMGI)

Objective 4: Increase affordable housing options for people with mobility impairments by designing all new units built with HOME funds to OHFA's Visitability Standards.

Measure 1: Number of new units built with HOME funds that are visitable

Objective 5: Reduce housing costs for lower-income families by encouraging energy-efficient units that also provide universal design features.

Measure 1: Number of affordable projects/units that incorporate both energy-efficient measures for heating, cooling, appliances, and lighting and variety of universal design features that are projected to reduce housing cost by 10 percent on average

Objective 4: Encourage housing development that serves households with developmental disabilities, severe and persistent mental illness or mobility/sensory impairments.

Measure 1: Number of projects/units that serve special-needs populations

Objective 5: Continue to review and refine the application process to minimize barriers to using HOME funding

Measure 1: Number of frequently asked answered that address the HDAP process
Measure 2: Number of focus groups held to gain feedback on the application process

Housing Performance Measures – Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating Grant Program

Goal: Elevate community-based housing development organizations operating in Ohio to organizations that have the potential to operate as state-certified CHDOs in tax credit developments. Use Operating Grant to sustain the capacity of those newly identified organizations while it serves as a CHDO in a tax credit development.

Objective 1: Identify the Organizations

Measure 1: Annually contact at least 10 recent former state-certified CHDOs to gauge interest in participating in future tax credit developments. Compile a recap of these efforts to demonstrate compliance with this performance measure

Measure 2: Work with Ohio Community Development Corporation and other representative organizations to identify potential organizations. Compile a recap of these efforts to demonstrate compliance with this performance measure

Objective 2: Train organizations to compete at the tax credit level of development.

Measure 1: Sponsor an annual training day for identified organizations and any self-selected organizations that want to participate

Objective 3: Sustain state-certified CHDOs' capacity with the CHDO Operating Grant.

Measure 1: OHFA will recommend to the Development Services Agency the amount of Operating Grant support that can be absorbed annually based on the number of CHDOs participating in the current year's tax credit program

Homeless and Supportive Housing Performance Measures – Homeless Crisis Response Program and Supportive Housing Program

Goal: To provide a continuum of housing/services to prevent persons from becoming homeless and rapidly re-housing persons when homelessness does occur by: providing homelessness prevention services and assistance; moving persons from homelessness to permanent housing through the provision of housing placement, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, and project-based transitional housing; and providing long-term permanent supportive housing to homeless persons with disabilities.

Objective 1: Reduce the average and median length of time persons remain homeless.

Measure 1: Reduce the average and median length of time persons are homeless in emergency shelter and transitional housing projects

Objective 2: Reduce number of persons who obtain permanent housing from homelessness from returning to homelessness.

Measure 1: Reduce returns to Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing projects within six to 12 months of exit to permanent housing destination

Measure 2: Reduce returns to Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing projects within two years of exit to permanent housing destination

Objective 3: Increase program participants' self-sufficiency.

Measure 1: Increased employment income upon exit
Measure 2: Increased non-cash benefits upon exit
Measure 3: Increased employment income during reporting period
Measure 4: Increased non-cash benefits during reporting period

Objective 4: Reduce number of persons entering homelessness for the first time.

Measure 1: Increased numbers of persons successfully diverted from entering homeless programs

Objective 5: Increase the percent of persons who exit to or retain permanent housing.

Measure 1: Increase exits to permanent housing from emergency shelter and transitional housing

Measure 2: Increase percent of persons retaining permanent housing in rapid rehousing projects, prevention projects and permanent supportive housing

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Fund local governments, nonprofit organizations and eligible consortia to provide homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, emergency shelter, project-based transitional housing and permanent supportive housing, ensuring that all Ohioans have access to appropriate housing resources.

Strategy 2: Provide grantees with regular progress updates on performance measures and offer guidance and technical assistance as needed.

Community Development Performance Measures – Community Development Program, Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Goal: To provide communities with a flexible housing and community development resource that can be used to address locally identified needs that are eligible CDBG activities and qualify under the national objective of Low- and Moderate-Income benefit or Elimination of Slum and Blight.

Objective 1: Improve the public facilities and infrastructure in lower-income areas through LMI area-wide benefit activities, in Slum and Blight areas or on a spot Slum and Blight basis.

Measure 1: Community development activities undertaken annually
Measure 2: Lower-income persons benefited by community development activities annually

Objective 2: Provide direct assistance to LMI persons, such as housing assistance, or needed services currently unavailable in the community.

Measure 1: Public service activities assisted annually through community development programs

Objective 3: Revitalize lower-income neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for residents by addressing all or part of the identified community development needs and/or housing needs.

Measure 1: Number of activities located in Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS) Investment Areas that address locally-identified needs
Measure 2: Number of LMI persons benefiting from Investment area Community Development activities

Objective 4: Address LMI persons' basic health and safety needs.

Measure 1: Households provided with potable water and/or sanitary sewage systems that meet state and federal standards
Measure 2: Households and persons who are benefiting from improved fire protection due to equipment and facilities acquired or improved with community development assistance
Measure 3: Households and persons whose health and safety is secured by addressing imminent or immediate threats caused by natural disasters or other causes

Objective 5: Improve the quality of life for elderly persons and special needs populations by providing locally determined public services and facilities.

Measure 1: Number of elderly or special needs persons assisted through public service activities
Measure 2: Number of elderly persons benefiting from senior center construction or improvements
Measure 3: Number of persons benefiting from public facility modifications or improvements that improve accessibility for disabled or special needs persons

Objective 6: Maintain the cultural heritage of local communities through Historic Preservation activities.

Measure 1: Number of historic building or sites preserved or rehabilitated.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Assist 78 counties and 25 cities annually through CDBG funds distribution to address local community or economic development, housing or other needs.

Strategy 2: Assist approximately 10 to 20 communities annually by distributing funding for safe, potable water and adequate sanitary sewage.

Economic Development Performance Measures – Economic Development Loan and Public Infrastructure Grant Program

Goal: The principal goal of the Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program is to create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons, through the expansion and retention of business and industry in Ohio communities.

Goal: The principal goal of the Economic Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program is to create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for LMI persons, through the expansion and retention of business and industry in Ohio communities.

Objective 1: Job creation for LMI persons.

Measure 1: Number of jobs created/retained + number of jobs created/retained for LMI persons

Objective 2: Provide gap financing to support private investment.

Measure 1: Number of loans provided for fixed asset financing

Objective 3: Investment in infrastructure to support private investment.

Measure 1: Number of infrastructure grants provided
Measure 2: Linear feet of infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated
Measure 3: Number of infrastructure facilities constructed/rehabilitated

Objective 5: Return vacant or under-utilized buildings to productive and profitable use

Measure 1: Number of buildings rehabilitated.
Measure 2: Square feet of buildings rehabilitated.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Improve the economic health and sustainability of local communities by adding to the tax base and local economy and increasing per capita income.

Strategy 2: Increase the self-sufficiency of local residents by increased access to local living wage employment and affordable health care.

Strategy 3: Improve the career path prospects for local residents by creating opportunities for workforce skill development.

Economic Development Performance Measures – Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program

Goals: The principal goals of the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program are: to assist in revitalizing Central Business Districts; to aid in eliminating slums and blight; and

to create and retain permanent, private-sector job opportunities, principally for persons from LMI households.

Objective 1: Eliminate blighting conditions by rehabilitating buildings and facades located in areas that have been designated as distressed based on HUD criteria.

Measure 1: Number/percent of building facades rehabilitated

Objective 2: Eliminate blighting conditions by upgrading infrastructure in the designated downtown revitalization area.

Measure 1: Extent of public infrastructure improvements (linear feet of curbs, streets, sidewalks; square feet of parking lots, etc.)

Objective 3: Improve or stabilize the business climate downtown.

Measure 1: Decreased vacant floor space downtown
Measure 2: Increase the number of businesses downtown
Measure 3: Increase participation in merchant/business associations

Objective 4: Preserve local downtowns' cultural and architectural heritage.

Measure 1: Number of historic building or sites preserved.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Commit funding to the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program to assist at least five communities to revitalize downtown areas annually.

Strategy 2: Commit funding to the Community Development Target of Opportunity Grant Program to assist with funding "target of opportunity" downtown projects.

Monitoring

OCD conducts monitoring visits at least once prior to grant close out. Also, both OCD and OHFA staff provide technical assistance to CHIP and HDAP grantees, either via telephone, meetings at the state offices, or, if warranted, via site visits. Most post-award, on-site technical assistance is provided to CHIP grantees, whose programs sometimes involve activities that are new to the local program or involve new local staff. HDAP grants are for projects, rather than programs, and are typically implemented by agencies that have considerable housing development experience. Thus, there is not a significant need for on-site, post-award technical assistance in most HDAP projects. The Community and Economic Development Section also meet with CDBG Community Development Allocation grantees before application submission to ensure eligibility and national objective compliance. Generally, staff conducts a minimum of 30 monitoring/technical assistance visits during the program year (July 1 – June 30). Also, on a calendar year basis, ODSA's Office of Audit conducts financial audits of selected grant recipients. OCD provides the Office of Audit with a selected list determined by each section supervisor based on grant size grant and program complexity. The Office of Audit adds a number of recipients based on random selection of receipts and grant disbursements.

Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring visits examine some selected activities to determine that:

1. Activities meet OCD, State and/or HUD requirements.
2. Communities are timely and responsibly managing projects.
3. Communities are implementing activities outlined in the application and grant agreement.

The visit is not intended to be a comprehensive, in-depth audit of all activities and programs undertaken by the grantee, nor do staff resources permit such an approach.

Site visits are selected based on empirical evidence reviewed by management and community development/housing specialists regarding grantees' expertise, program complexity, or number of grants operated by a particular recipient. The staff will monitor certain programmatic areas based on previous findings in that specific area or if the particular programmatic function has not been monitored in the past few years.

If the initial review by an OCD staff member uncovers specific problem areas, a program specialist (financial, procurement, acquisition/relocation, etc.) will be sent to conduct a detailed review of a particular program area.

At the conclusion of a monitoring visit, the staff person must conduct an exit conference with the grantee to review the monitoring results and describe any deficiencies found during the monitoring visit. Within 45 days following a monitoring visit, the staff person prepares a monitoring report that the section supervisor reviews. All monitoring tools and work papers must be placed in the Central File. Grantees have 45 days to respond to the monitoring report, and are required to respond if the staff person lists either a "finding" or an "advisory concern" in the report.

A computerized monitoring tracking system enables OCD staff to quickly determine problem areas and/or grantees that need monitoring as well as tracking to ensure that all grants are monitored prior to close out.

Monitoring Standards

There are two types of determinations that can be made as a result of a monitoring visit:

A “Finding” is a deficiency that is a direct law/regulation or grant agreement violation (which incorporates the application documents and attendant commitments). It also is insufficient documentation that substantiates the grantee followed grant or statutory requirements. All findings require the grantee to respond to and rectify the cited deficiency.

An “Advisory Concern” is not a violation, but any deficiency that may eventually lead to a violation and “finding”.

It is the OCD staff person’s responsibility to track the outstanding findings and advisory concerns. If the grantee has not responded within the appropriate time, staff must contact the grantee in writing with follow-up letters until all issues are resolved. Once all issues are resolved, OCD will send the grantee a written release.

Program-Specific Requirements

HOME Program

1. **Homeownership Assistance - Resale/Recapture**

Some of the HOME assistance may be provided through homeownership assistance. To ensure affordability, the HOME program requires an affordability period based on the amount of HOME assistance that enabled the homebuyer to buy the dwelling unit. Grantees must enforce a resale or recapture requirement if the property is sold or title is transferred before the affordability period ends.

There are two options regarding controlling reselling homebuyer properties during the affordability period. Option 1, recapture, must be used in all cases, except for projects completed by Habitat for Humanity. Projects completed by Habitat for Humanity must use Option 2, resale. The specific requirements for Option 1 and Option 2 are as follows:

Option 1 – Create another Unit by "Recapturing" the HOME Investment

- Recapture provisions will be based on the Reduction During Affordability Period model. Recapture provisions allow the grantee to reduce the amount of direct HOME subsidy on a pro-rata basis for the time the homebuyer has owned and occupied the housing, measured against the required affordability period. The amount subject to recapture will decline in equal increments, on an annual basis over the affordability period term or until the assisted housing ceases to be the principal residence. The resulting ratio would be used to determine how much of the direct HOME subsidy the grantee would recapture. The pro rata amount recaptured by the grantee cannot exceed what is available from net proceeds. Net proceeds are defined as the sales price minus the principal loan repayment, other than HOME funds, and any closing costs.

- Recaptured HOME assistance must be used to assist other low-income HOME beneficiaries.

- HOME funds subject to recapture include any direct assistance to the homebuyer that reduced the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price or any down payment or subordinate financing provided on behalf of the purchase, but excludes the amount between unit production cost and the property's market value (i.e. development subsidy).

Option 2 – Sell the Existing Property to a Subsequent Low-Income Purchaser

- Resale requirements must ensure that the home will be sold to a low-and moderate-income family and the property will continue to be used as a principal residence for the remainder of the affordability period.

- For the housing to remain affordable, the subsequent purchaser's monthly payments of principal, interest, taxes and insurance cannot exceed 30 percent of the gross income for a family with an income equal to or less than 80 percent of median income for the area.

- Deed restrictions or other similar mechanisms must be used to guarantee the resale restrictions, 24 CFR 92.254.

- Resale provisions – that is, the affordability period restrictions on selling the property -- are waived if the homeowner defaults on the first mortgage and foreclosure proceedings are initiated.

- Under the resale option, the affordability period is based on the total amount of HOME funds invested in the housing, including any development subsidy.

- Under the resale option, grantees must ensure that, if the property is sold during the affordability affordability, the price at resale provides the original HOME-assisted homebuyer a fair return on investment. Grantees shall determine the fair return on investment by using the following calculation:

- The original homebuyer's initial investment (i.e. any down payment),plus any investment in capital improvements made by the original homebuyer that may add value to the property. This total shall then be multiplied by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the period of ownership to determine a fair rate of return for the original buyer. This fair rate of return is then added to the owner's initial investment and any applicable investment in capital improvements. The total amount shall be considered as the homebuyer's fair return on investment. Note: Capital improvements shall be defined as improvements made to the home that are outside of general maintenance items. Capital improvement value shall be documented by the original homeowner's receipts for materials and labor.

The affordability period is based on the amount of HOME funds provided as direct assistance for recapture option or total amount of HOME funds for resale option.

2. **Minority Business Enterprise Division**

ODSA provides several assistance programs for minority- and women-owned businesses. The Minority Business Enterprise Division administers the state's Minority Contractors and Business Assistance Program (MCBAP). The eight MCBAPs serve clients in areas with the highest minority population concentrations including Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Portsmouth, Toledo, and Youngstown. Services provided to minority owned businesses include management, technical, financial, contract as loan, grant and bond packaging services at no cost. ODSA also houses the Minority Development Financing Advisory Board, which offers financing for fixed assets to state-certified, minority-owned businesses.

The Women's Business Resource Program provides assistance for women-owned businesses through direct client services and through participation in various local programs and conferences.

The MBE and WBE programs provided through ODSA conduct their own outreach and marketing efforts, and will provide these resources to businesses interested in participating in the CDBG or HOME programs.

In addition, the state will require that state recipients or sub-recipients adopt their own MBE and WBE policies. At a minimum, the recipient or sub-recipient must publicly state their MBE and WBE policy in the local print media with the widest circulation at least once annually. The local MBE/WBE policy must provide that, at least once annually, the local recipient will solicit MBE/WBE firms that wish to receive bids for projects funded through the HOME and CDBG Programs to participate.

3. **Affirmative Marketing Policy**

State recipients and sub-recipient receiving HOME funds shall adopt policies and procedures that inform the public, potential tenants, and property owners of its Affirmative Marketing Policy. At a minimum, the a state recipient's Affirmative Marketing Policy must commit to include the Equal Housing Opportunity logotype in press releases and solicitations for participation in the HOME Program. The state recipient will also have a policy for referring questions and complaints to an agency or organization that can provide advice on federal housing laws. At least once annually, state recipients will conduct a public outreach effort that will make information available to the public on rental units that have received HOME assistance. Minimally, this information will include the unit addresses, unit types, and the owner's address and phone number.

At a minimum, the Affirmative Marketing Policy will require that project owners of five or more units receiving HOME assistance will comply with the following requirements:

1. Subsequent to receiving HOME assistance and throughout the period of affordability, the owner shall annually provide information on HOME-assisted units to an agency that serves LMI persons.

2. If any units are publicly advertised during the affordability period, the Equal Opportunity Housing Logo must accompany the advertisement.

3. The owner must display the Equal Housing Opportunity logo and fair housing poster in n publicly accessible area (e.g., the rental office).

4. The owner will maintain information on tenants' race, sex, and ethnicity to demonstrate the owner's affirmative marketing efforts results.

5. The owner will, for the affordability period, maintain information demonstrating compliance with sections 1, 2 and 4 above, and will make such information available to the state recipient, sub-recipient or the state of Ohio upon request.

Each recipient or sub-recipient shall maintain records indicating compliance with the above policies, including:

1. Records documenting the recipient's annual outreach efforts to Affirmatively Market HOME-assisted units. The state (or state recipients in decentralized programs) will conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of these efforts. Minimally, this evaluation shall include a discussion with the organizations or agencies identified in section 1 above as to the number of referrals made based on the information provided by the HOME-assisted units' owners.

   The evaluation may also include a review of the information maintained pursuant to section 4 above to review the tenant population characteristics for specific projects.

2. HOME-assisted unit owners monitoring records (to be maintained by the recipient or sub-recipient) that indicate the extent to which the owner has complied with sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 above, and remedies to resolve non-compliance.

Policies of the Office of Community Development

City Status

For purposes of the federal programs administered under this Consolidated Plan, municipalities that attain city status must provide city designation evidence from the Ohio Secretary of State by January 1st of the year of the effective date of the Consolidated Plan.

CDBG

Program Income

Under Section 104(j) of the Act, states are authorized to distribute program income when such income has been returned from local communities.

Ohio State CDBG Program guidelines are such that most program income derived from administering local grantee funds stays at the community level. Local grantees must expend their program income according to CDBG regulations and the OCD Financial Management Rules and Regulations Handbook (Attachment 12) online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_fiscalforms.htm. Any program income returned to the State, due to the community's unsatisfactory compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, will be distributed to eligible CDBG programs at OCD's discretion, based on program need and timeliness requirements.

If a local grantee community lacks the capacity to administer program income, any income that the community receives as result of a grant activity (and which is governed by HUD or federal program income regulations) must be returned to the state.

Program income may be retained by the unit of general local government if the program income will be used to continue the activity from which the program income was derived. The state will determine when an activity will be considered to be continued. Funds expended in a different manner must receive prior state approval.

Smaller units of government that do not have an ongoing grant relationship with OCD, or an existing Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund, will be required to arrange Revolving Loan Fund agreements with the county in which the community is located.

Recaptured Funds

Based on past experience, the State expects to recapture CDBG funds from local grantees for the following reasons: (1) questioned costs; (2) unallowable costs; (3) unspent funds, or funds not drawn down by local grantees after local program completion; and (4) funding commitments for local projects that do not begin within allowable time periods.

At OCD's discretion, recaptured funds will be transferred to the appropriate program and distributed in order to meet timeliness requirements.

Program Set-Aside Fund Balance

Unless otherwise provided in the State Consolidated Plan and at OCD's discretion, program set-aside funds remaining at the end of the Program Year will be transferred to the appropriate program in order to meet timeliness requirements.

HOME Program Income

OCD will allow local governments to maintain and expend HOME program income on OCD-approved, HOME-eligible activities. However, program income funds must be expended before a grantee may receive additional HOME dollars to expend on a similar activity.

In addition, OCD will allow grantees to expend up to 10 percent or $50,000, whichever is less, of HOME program income expected to be received in a calendar year for administrative expenses. Grantees are required to report to OCD on program income annually.

OCD requires communities that administer CDBG or HOME program income through a local Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to submit their RLF Administration Agreements to OCD every three years for review and approval.

Reallocated Funds

The State does not expect to receive any reallocated funds HUD recaptured from Small Cities grantees during the upcoming year.

Undistributed Funds

If it appears likely that funds allocated to the state's programs will not be distributed within the allotted timeframe for the program, the State reserves the right to transfer any and all programs' undistributed balance to other programs that need additional funding. At OCD's discretion, funds set aside for the Economic Development Program that are not substantially committed to specific projects by April 30th, will be transferred to the appropriate program in order to meet timeliness requirements. Funds allocated for the Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program that are not committed to specific projects by May 31st will be transferred to the Community Development Program. Undistributed CHDO Operating Grant Program funds will be transferred to the CHIP Program.

Use of Funds for Technical Assistance

The State reserves its right to use up to 1 percent of each annual allocation it receives from HUD to provide technical assistance to local units of government and other entities and individuals eligible for assistance under the State CDBG Program.

Waiver of Plan Requirements

Should two units of local government be unable to establish or maintain a mutually satisfactory working relationship with regard to administering the CDBG Community Development Allocation or Economic Development Programs, one or both units of government may request that OCD waive the requirements of the applicable portion of the State plan. The unit of local government requesting a waiver shall present, in writing, documented attempts to comply with the administration plan, the reasons why compliance is not possible, and submit to OCD a waiver request signed by the chief local elected official. Only cities designated as "Acquired Cities" are eligible for a waiver under the Community Development Allocation Program.

Upon receipt of a written waiver request, OCD shall take the following steps:

(1) Conduct an investigation of the issues;
(2) Hold at least one meeting with representatives of both units of local government in an attempt to resolve the issues; and
(3) Make a determination within 15 working days from the receipt of a written waiver request.

A waiver shall be granted only if:

(1) OCD is satisfied that all reasonable attempts have been made to comply with the plan's requirements;
(2) OCD determines that some unusual or unique circumstances exist that prevents the grantees from meeting the CDBG administration plan requirements; and
(3) Granting a waiver would best achieve the plan's objective.

Should the units of government not agree with OCD's determination, they may request, in writing, that the Director of the Community Development Division review the waiver request and make a decision within 10 working days.

Amendment Policy

Situations requiring an amendment:

1. Grantees proposing a new activity must request an amendment to an executed grant agreement. A public hearing is required for a new activity and a 10-day public notice must precede the hearing.
2. Grantees making a substantial change in an approved project or activity scope, location or design, number and type of beneficiaries, anticipated accomplishment, or national objective must request an amendment to an executed grant agreement. In addition, a public hearing is required and must be preceded by a 10-day notice.
3. Grantees increasing or decreasing a previously approved activity by more than $5,000 or 10 percent, whichever is greater, must request an amendment to an executed grant agreement. These thresholds must be applied to both the activity from which the funds are to be decreased and the activity to which the funds will be increased. Increases or decreases less than this threshold will be reconciled during the closeout process. The administration cap may not be exceeded. For competitive programs, 90 percent of outcomes must be met for an activity prior to requesting an amendment to reduce funds in that activity. Additional restrictions or exceptions may be included in the guidelines for each program.
4. Activity outcomes may also be reduced by up to 10 percent, without an amendment, as a result of moving funds from one activity to another in order to meet an increased demand in another activity. However, outcomes may not be reduced without an amendment for other reasons.

Amendments must be reviewed and approved by OCD prior to implementing the proposed change.

Due to the nature of competitive programs, grantees are discouraged from making any changes to their programs. Therefore, amendments to competitive programs will be considered during future funding application reviews.

Community-Based Alternatives for Individuals with Disabilities

In *Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581* (1999) (the "Olmstead decision"), the Supreme Court construed Title II of the ADA to require qualified individuals with mental disabilities be placed in community settings, rather than in institutions, whenever treatment professionals determine that such placement is appropriate and the affected persons do not oppose such placement, taking into account the resources available and the needs of others with disabilities. The state will support localities' efforts to help people who are institutionalized to have the opportunity to live close to their families and friends, to live more independently, to engage in productive employment, and to participate in community life.

The state will support strategies and policies that foster independence and participation in the community for all individuals with disabilities who are served by programs and activities assisted with funding distributed through the Ohio Consolidated Plan.

The state will not support disability-based discrimination in services, programs, or activities. However, the state will allow grantees to assist housing and provide programs and services that benefit specific disability subgroups when it is documented that there is an unmet need for the housing, services, or programs.

Preferences for Persons with Disabilities

The state permits grantees to develop client selection criteria that serve the entire community, but gives a preference to persons with a special need(s).

Special needs preferences may target a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) if the specific category is identified in the Consolidated and Local Plans as having unmet housing needs and the preference is required to narrow the gap in benefits and

services received by such persons. However, if a grantee has a preference for persons within a class or category of disability (such as persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), the grantee cannot discriminate against persons who fall within that class based on the presence of other disabilities. The local written selection criteria must explain what the preferences are and how the preferences will be implemented.

All programs and activities are subject to the applicable fair housing requirements, and preferences must be administered in a nondiscriminatory manner. This means that if a special needs preference is established, grantees or sub-recipients must affirmatively market activity availability across all protected classes within the preference.

When a grantee chooses to serve a particular group of persons with a specialized housing activity or program, the grantee cannot then restrict access to its other activities for the identified group. For example, a grantee may not determine that since it will provide a preference to persons with special needs under its TBRA program, it will therefore limit participation by those special needs persons in its homeownership or other affordable housing programs or forms of assistance.

When combining programs, grantees must keep in mind that the rules and regulations of all programs must be met.

Local Government Certifications to the State

Title I, Section 106, of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, requires that no amount may be distributed by the State under the CDBG program to any unit of general local government in a non-entitlement area unless such unit of general local government certifies that:

(1) It will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with such amounts;

(2) Its program will be conducted and administered in conformity with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d et seq.) and the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-20), and that it will affirmatively further fair housing;

(3) It is following a detailed citizen participation plan which:

(a) provides for and encourages citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low- and moderate-income who are residents of slum and blight areas and of areas in which section 106 funds are proposed to be used, and in the case of a grantee described in section 106(a), provides for residents in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods' participation as defined by the local jurisdiction;

(b) provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the grantee's proposed use of funds, as required by Secretary's regulations, and relating to the actual funds under this title;

(c) provides for technical assistance to groups representing persons of low- and moderate-income that request such assistance in developing proposals with the level and type of assistance to be determined by the grantee;

(d) provides for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the developing needs, the reviewing proposed activities, and reviewing program performance, which hearings shall be held after adequate notice, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for the disabled;

(e) provides for a timely written answer within 15 working days, where practicable, to written complaints and grievances; and

(f) identifies how non-English speaking residents' needs will be met in at public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably

expected to participate. This paragraph may not be construed to restrict the grantee's responsibility or authority for developing and executing its community development program.

(4) It will not attempt to recover any public improvement capital costs assisted in whole or in part under Section 106 or with amounts resulting from a guarantee under Section 108 by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements, unless (i) funds received under Section 106 are used to pay the proportion of such fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from resources other than under this title; or (ii) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, the grantee certified to the State it lacks sufficient funds received under Section 106 to comply with the requirements of clause (i);

(5) In order to receive Title I funds, it will adopt and enforce a policy prohibiting using excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstration within its jurisdiction; and

(6) The chief executive officer of the unit of general local government certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(a) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal Contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement;

(b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions;

(c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly; and,

(d) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Title 31, United States Code, Section 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

The program certifications, which are listed above, will be contained in the grant agreement between the State and units of general local government receiving CDBG

funds. At the time of grant agreement execution, grantees are also required to sign these certifications and to ensure that the requirements are met during the implementation of the grantees' program activities.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended through October 28, 1992, and 24 CFR 570.487 (b) require that a local unit of government that participates in the CDBG Program is required to certify that it will affirmatively further fair housing choice. The certification is found in the grant agreement with the State. Similar fair housing strategies are required if the local unit of government is participating in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (24 CFR 92.350 and 351).

Units of local government receiving CDBG or HOME funds are required to develop and conduct activities to assure nondiscrimination in public and private housing transactions.

To comply with the certification:

(1) Units of local government receiving State CDBG or HOME funds for the first time must conduct, or be covered by, an analysis to determine the impediments to fair housing choice within their respective communities. The analysis must cover impediments based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and familial status.

Based upon the conclusions of this analysis, recipients must identify and develop proposed actions to affirmatively further fair housing at the local level. Additionally, the proposed actions must meet the State's minimum fair housing program requirements [See item (3) below].

The analysis and proposed actions must be submitted to the State for review and approval within three months of grant award. (The delay in conducting a fair housing analysis, however, cannot be used as justification for delaying actions to affirmatively further fair housing. The Fair Housing Act, as amended, is applicable in its own terms because the HCDA expressly makes the Fair Housing Act applicable to the CDBG and HOME programs.)

Proposed fair housing actions and the analysis should be presented in the application whenever possible. If the unit of local government is covered by a current analysis and actions are being undertaken as a requirement of the Community Development Allocation Program or another current approved State CDBG or HOME program, a certification of coverage, which identifies the current program and the administering entity, must be submitted in the application. OCD may require additional actions if the unit of local government is not receiving adequate coverage and/or is participating in housing programs.

Local units of government must carry out, and clearly document, actions to remedy or mitigate conditions limiting fair housing choice.

(2) Units of local government previously receiving State CDBG or HOME funds are expected to continue to update their analysis to determine the impediments to fair housing choice within their respective communities. The analysis must cover impediments based on race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, religion, disability, and familial status.

Based upon the conclusions of this analysis, recipients must identify and develop proposed actions to affirmatively further fair housing at the local level. Additionally, the proposed actions must meet the State's minimum fair housing program requirements [See item (3) below.]

The proposed actions must be submitted to the State for review and approval with the Community Development Allocation Program or another approved current State CDBG program. In the latter case, a certification of coverage, which identifies the current program and the administering entity, must be submitted in the application. OCD may require additional actions if the unit of local government is not receiving adequate coverage and/or is participating in housing programs.

Local units of government must carry out, and clearly document, actions to remedy or mitigate conditions limiting fair housing choice.

(3) The State's minimum fair housing program requirements are:

(a) Conduct or update an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. In cases where a unit of local government is not specifically covered by the Community Development analysis, an analysis must be conducted within three months of its application approval for CDBG or HOME funds.

(b) Appoint a local fair housing coordinator, who is an employee of the unit of local government, who will generally be accessible Monday through Friday. A consultant or local agency may be substituted if reasonable access to the provider can be assured and upon OCD's written approval. The name, agency, address, and phone number must be reported to and approved by OCD.

(c) Establish and implement a process to receive fair housing complaints and forward the complaint to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, which is charged with investigation and enforcement. Records must describe the type of referral, copies of Housing Discrimination Complaint records (HUD-903 or equivalent), referral date, and any follow-up action.

(d) Conduct training to provide education material and activities to:

(i) Residents of areas in which CDBG or HOME activities are being undertaken, or to special populations affected by the activities;

(ii) Three civic groups or schools; and

(iii) If undertaking homebuyer education, training must contain a fair housing component.

Provide an agenda, minutes, an audience description, and any follow-up to occur for each session.

(e) Develop and distribute fair housing information and materials (posters, brochures, or materials) to 10 area agencies, organizations, or public events (county fair, post office, employment services office, etc.). The local fair housing coordinator's telephone number (including a telephone number for use by the hearing impaired) must be included in this information or materials. A list of distribution locations, distribution dates, and estimated quantities of material distributed must be maintained. If a unit of local government is undertaking residential rehabilitation or new construction, tenant based rental assistance or down payment assistance, fair housing information must be provided to each applicant and/or recipient of assistance.

(f) If a unit of local government has a fair housing resolution or ordinance, the resolution or ordinance must include coverage for all protected groups.

State review and approval of fair housing programs are required.

(4) Other fair housing actions may be required if:

(a) The analysis of the impediments to fair housing reveals that other actions would be necessary to assure nondiscrimination in public and private housing transactions.

(b) The unit of local government is participating in a rental rehabilitation program. An affirmative marketing plan may be required. Local units of government participating in rehabilitation of HOME- or CDBG-assisted housing containing five or more housing units are required to adopt affirmative marketing procedures and requirements and provide owners with affirmative marketing and tenant landlord information or training.

(5) Other activities units of local governments may undertake to affirmatively further fair housing are:

(a) Adopt a local fair housing ordinance or resolution.

(b) Provide housing discrimination/investigation service (testing).

(c) Review publishers' advertisements (newspaper ad, radio ad) for discriminatory advertisements. Provide publishers, real estate firms, banks, savings and loan associations with fair housing advertising guidelines.

(d) Sponsor community awareness events, such as poster, speech, and writing contests.

(e) Develop lists of both public and private housing accessible to persons with disabilities.

(f) Review local zoning laws and procedures to determine whether they contribute to or detract from fair housing choice.

Grantee Assurances

The following assurances will be contained in the grant agreement between the state of Ohio and the Grantee.

The Grantee hereby assures and certifies that:

(a) It possesses legal authority to apply for and accept the grant, and to execute the proposed program.

(b) Its governing body has duly adopted or passed as an official act, resolution, motion or similar action authorizing filing and accepting the application, including all understandings and assurances contained therein, and directing and authorizing the person identified as the applicant's official representative to act in connection with the application and to provide such additional information as may be required.

(c) It has complied with all clearinghouse requirements and that either:

(1) Any comments and recommendations made by or through clearinghouses will be considered and appropriate remedial action(s) will be taken; or

(2) The required procedures were followed and no comments or recommendations were received.

(d) It has facilitated or will facilitate citizen participation by:

(1) Providing adequate notices for two public hearings 10 days in advance of the hearing;

(2) Holding two hearings on the proposed application before adopting a resolution or similar action by the local governing body that authorizes filing the application. The first hearing must present all State CDBG programs and allow citizen input, while the second hearing must be held to discuss specific application proposals that the community intends to submit (the community need only hold the first hearing once annually to discuss the current fiscal year CDBG programs);

(3) Providing for citizen participation by holding one public hearing when considering amendments to the community development program; and

(4) Following a detailed citizen participation plan which:

(i) Provides for and encourages citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low and moderate income who are residents of slum and blight areas and of areas in which section 106 funds are proposed to be used, and in the case of a grantee described in section 106(a), provides for

participation of residents in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods as defined by the local jurisdiction;

(ii) Provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the grantee's proposed use of funds, as required by regulations of the Secretary, and relating to the actual funds under this title;

(iii) Provides for technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals with the level and type of assistance to be determined by the grantee;

(iv) Provides for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least developing needs, reviewing proposed activities, and reviewing program performance, which hearings shall be held after adequate notice, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for disabilities;

(v) Provides for a timely written answer to written complaints and grievances, within 15 working days where practicable; and

(vi) Identifies how non-English speaking residents' needs will be met at public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate. This paragraph may not be construed to restrict the grantee's responsibility or authority for developing and executing its community development program.

(e) Its chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by the state:

(1) Consents to assume the responsible Federal Official status under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 insofar as the provisions of such Act apply to 24 CFR 570 and to the Ohio State CDBG Program.

(2) Is authorized and consents on the applicant's behalf and himself to accept Federal courts' jurisdiction for enforcing his responsibilities as such an official.

(f) The Community Development Program has been developed to give maximum feasible priority to activities that will benefit low- and moderate-income families or aid in the elimination of slums or blight.

[The requirement for this certification will not preclude the State from approving an application where the applicant certifies, and the State determines, that all or part of the Community Development Program activities are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency as specifically explained by the applicant in accordance with 570.483(d)].

(g) It will comply with the regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements of the "Common Rule" 24 CFR Part 85, and Federal Management Circular A-87 and OMB Circular A-128 as they relate to the application, acceptance, and use of Federal funds under this part.

(h) It will comply with:

(1) Section 110 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, 24 CFR 570.487, and State law and regulations regarding the administration and enforcement of labor standards;

(2) The Provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (46 U.S.C. 276a) with respect to prevailing wage rates (except for projects for the rehabilitation of residential properties of fewer than eight units);

(3) The Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act of 1962, 40 U.S.C. 327-332, that mechanics and laborers (including watchmen and guards) employed on federally assisted contracts be paid wages of not less than one and one-half times their basic wage rates for all hours worked in excess of 40 in a work-week; and

(4) The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. 201 et seq., requiring that covered employees be paid at least the minimum prescribed wage, and also that they be paid one and one-half times their basic wage rate for all hours worked in excess of the prescribed work-week.

(i) It will comply with all requirements imposed by HUD and the State concerning special requirements of law, program requirements, and other administrative requirements, approved in accordance with 24 CFR Part 85.

(j) It will comply with the provisions of Executive Order 11296, relating to evaluation of flood hazards and Executive Order 11288 relating to the prevention, control, and abatement of water pollution.

(k) It will require every building or facility (other than a privately owned residential structure) designed, constructed, or altered with funds provided under this Part to comply with the "American Standard Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to, and Usable by, the Physically Handicapped," Number A-117.1-R 1972, subject to the exceptions contained in 41 CFR 101-19.604. The applicant will be responsible for conducting inspections to ensure compliance with these specifications by the contractor.

(l) It will comply with:

(1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352), and the regulations issued pursuant thereto (34 CFR Part 1), which provides that no person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant receives Federal financial assistance and will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this assurance. If any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of Federal financial assistance extended to the applicant, this assurance will obligate the applicant, or in the case of any transfer of such property, any transferee, for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(2) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-284), as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (Pub.L. 100-430, 102 Stat. 1619) and 24 CFR 570.487(a) and (b) which require local units of government to administer all programs and activities relating to housing and community development in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing, and to affirmatively further fair housing in the sale or rental of housing, the financing of housing, and the provision of brokerage services.

(3) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which provides that no persons in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

(4) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), which provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from HUD.

(5) Executive Order 12259, Leadership and Coordination of Fair Housing in Federal Programs, requiring that programs and activities relating to housing and urban development be administered in a manner affirmatively to further the goals of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

(6) Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations issued pursuant thereto (24 CFR Part 570.601), which provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds provided under this Part.

(7) Executive Order 11063 as amended by Executive Order 12259, which requires participants in HUD programs to take all action necessary and appropriate to provide equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in the sale, leasing, rental, or other disposition of residential property and related facilities provided in whole or in part by Federal Assistance.

(8) Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Orders 11375 and 12086 and the regulations issued pursuant thereto (41 CFR Chapter 60), which provides that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin in all phases of employment during the performance of Federal and Federally assisted construction contracts. Contractors and subcontractors on Federal and federally assisted construction contracts shall take affirmative action to ensure fair treatment in employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation and selection for training and apprenticeship.

(9) The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151-4157; 24 CFR Part 40) requirements for accessibility by physically disabled persons.

(10) Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended (ADA) 28 CFR Part 35 and Part 36.

(11) Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

(12) Executive Order 12892, as amended, which requires federal agencies to affirmatively further fair housing in their programs and activities, and provides that the Secretary of HUD will be responsible for coordinating the effort. The Order also establishes the President's Fair Housing Council, which will be chaired by the Secretary of HUD.

(13) Executive Order 12898, which requires that each federal agency conduct its program, policies, and activities that substantially affect human health or the environment in a manner that does not exclude persons based on race, color, or national origin.

(14) Executive Order 13166, which eliminates, to the extent possible, limited English proficiency as a barrier to full and meaningful participation by beneficiaries in all federally-assisted and federally conducted programs and activities.

(15) Executive Order 13217, which requires federal agencies to evaluate their policies and programs to determine if any can be revised or modified to improve the availability of community-based living arrangements for persons with disabilities.

(m) It will comply with Section III of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requiring that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for training and employment be given to lower-income residents of the project area and contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to eligible business concerns which are located in, or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the area of the project.

(n) It will:

(1) To the greatest extent practicable under State law, comply with Sections 301 and 302 of Title III (Uniform Real Property Acquisition Policy) of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and will comply with Sections 303 and 304 of Title III, and HUD implementing instructions of 49 CFR Part 24;

(2) Inform affected persons of their rights and of the acquisition policies and procedures set forth in the regulations at 24 CFR Part 42, 570.488 and 570.606; and

(3) Adopt, make public and certify that it is following a Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan as described in 24 CFR Part 570.488 and 570.606.

(o) It will:

(1) Comply with Title II (Uniform Relocation Assistance) of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 and 24 CFR Part 570.488 and 570.606.

(2) Provide relocation payments and offer relocation assistance as described in Section 205 of the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act, as amended, and implementing instructions of 49 CFR Part 24 and 24 CFR Part 570.488 and 570.606 to all persons displaced as a result of acquisition of real property for an activity assisted under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Such payments and assistance shall be provided in a fair and consistent manner that ensures that the relocation process does not result in different or separate treatment of such persons on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or source of income;

(3) Assure that, within a reasonable period of time prior to displacement, comparable decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwellings will be available to all displaced families and individuals and that the range of choices available to such persons will not vary on account of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or source of income; and

(4) Inform affected persons of the relocation assistance, policies and procedures set forth in the regulations of 49 CFR Part 24 and 24 CFR Part 570.488 and 570.606.

(p) It will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using positions for a purpose that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have family, business, or other ties.

(q) It will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act which limits the political activity of employees.

(r) It will give the State, HUD and the Comptroller General through any authorized representatives access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the grant.

(s) It will ensure that the facilities under its ownership, lease or supervision which shall be utilized in the accomplishment of the program are not listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) list of Violating Facilities and that it will notify the State and HUD of the receipt of any communication from the Director of the EPA Office of Federal Activities indicating that a facility to be used in the project is under consideration for listing by the EPA.

(t) It will comply with the flood insurance purchase requirement of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, P.L. 93-234, 87 Stat. 975, approved December 31, 1973. Section 102(a) required, on and after March 2, 1974, the purchase of flood insurance in communities where such insurance is available as a condition for the receipt of any Federal assistance for construction or acquisition purposes for use in any area that has been identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an area having special flood hazards. The

phrase "Federal financial assistance" includes any form of loan, grant, guaranty, insurance payment, rebate, subsidy, disaster assistance loan or grant, or any other form of direct or indirect Federal assistance.

(u) It will, in connection with its performance of environmental assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470), Executive Order 11593, and the Preservation of Archeological and Historical Data Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1, et seq.) by:

(1) Consulting with State Historic Preservation Officer to identify properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that are subject to adverse effects (see 36 CFR Part 800.8) by the proposed activity; and

(2) Complying with all requirements established by the State and HUD to avoid or mitigate adverse effects upon such properties.

(v) It will comply with:

(1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and 24 CFR Part 58;

(2) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management;

(3) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands;

(4) The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(5) The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(6) The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271);

(7) The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300(f) et seq.);

(8) Section 401(f) of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4831(b));

(9) The Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(10) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(11) The Clean Water Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-217); and

(12) The Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(w) It will comply with all parts of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, which have not been cited previously as well as with other applicable laws.

STATE CERTIFICATIONS

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the consolidated plan regulations, the State certifies that:

Affirmatively Further Fair Housing – The State will affirmatively further fair housing, which means it will conduct an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice within the state, take appropriate actions to overcome the effects of any impediments identified through that analysis, and maintain records reflecting that analysis and actions in this regard.

Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan – It will comply with the acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR 24; and it has in effect and is following a residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan required under section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, in connection with any activity assisted with funding under the CDBG or HOME programs.

Drug Free Workplace – It will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

2. Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;

2. Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about
   (a) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
   (b) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
   (c) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
   (d) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.

3. Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph 1;

4. Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph 1 that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will
   (a) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
   (b) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

5. Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

6. Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph 4(b), with respect to any employee who is so convicted
   (a) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
   (b) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

7. Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Anti-Lobbying – To the best of the State's knowledge and belief:

1 No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of it, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement;

2 If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, it will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions; and

3 It will require that the language of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

Authority of State – The submission of the consolidated plan is authorized under State law and the State possesses the legal authority to carry out the programs under the consolidated plan for which it is seeking funding, in accordance with applicable HUD regulations.

Consistency with plan – The housing activities to be undertaken with CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds are consistent with the strategic plan.

Section 3 – It will comply with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, and implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 135.

Specific CDBG Certifications

The State certifies that:

Citizen Participation – It is in full compliance and following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR §91.115 and each unit of general local government that receives assistance from the State is or will be following a detailed citizen participation plan that satisfies the requirements of 24 CFR §570.486.

Consultation with Local Governments – It has or will comply with the following:

1. It has consulted with affected units of local government in the non-entitlement area of the State in determining the method of distribution of funding;

2. It engages in or will engage in planning for community development activities;

3. It provides or will provide technical assistance to units of local government in connection with community development programs; and

4. It will not refuse to distribute funds to any unit of general local government on the basis of the particular eligible activity selected by the unit of general local government to meet its community development needs, except that a State is not prevented from establishing priorities in distributing funding on the basis of the activities selected.

Local Needs Identification – It will require each unit of general local government to be funded to identify its community development and housing needs, including the needs of low-income and moderate-income families, and the activities to be undertaken to meet these needs.

Community Development Plan – Its consolidated housing and community development plan identifies community development and housing needs and specifies both short-term and long-term community development objectives that have been developed in accordance with the primary objectives of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. (See 24 CFR 570.2 and 24 CFR Part 570)

Use of Funds -- It has complied with the following criteria:

1 Maximum Feasible Priority. With respect to activities expected to be assisted with CDBG funds, it certifies that it has developed its Action Plan so as to give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low and moderate income families or aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. The Action Plan may also include activities which the grantee certifies are designed to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community, and other financial resources are not available);

2 Overall Benefit. The aggregate use of CDBG funds including section 108 guaranteed loans during program year(s) 199 (a period specified by the grantee consisting of one, two, or three specific consecutive program years), shall principally benefit persons of low and moderate income in a manner that ensures that at least 70 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period;

3 Special Assessments. The state will require units of general local government that receive CDBG funds to certify to the following:

It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds including Section 108 loan guaranteed funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements.

However, if CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of a fee or assessment that relates to the capital costs of public improvements (assisted in part with CDBG funds) financed from other revenue sources, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds.

It will not attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted with CDBG funds, including Section 108, unless CDBG funds are used to pay the proportion of fee or assessment attributable to the capital costs of public improvements financed from other revenue sources. In this case, an assessment or charge may be made against the property with respect to the public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds. Also, in the case of properties owned and occupied by moderate-income (not low-income) families, an assessment or charge may be made against the property for public improvements financed by a source other than CDBG funds if the jurisdiction certifies that it lacks CDBG funds to cover the assessment.

Excessive Force --It will require units of general local government that receive CDBG funds to certify that they have adopted and are enforcing:

1 A policy prohibiting the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations; and

2 A policy of enforcing applicable State and local laws against physically barring entrance to or exit from a facility or location which is the subject of such non-violent civil rights demonstrations within its jurisdiction;

Compliance With Anti-discrimination laws --The grant will be conducted and administered in conformity with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d), the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-3619), and implementing regulations.

Compliance with Laws – It will comply with applicable laws.

Specific HOME Certifications

The State certifies that:

Tenant Based Rental Assistance -- If it intends to provide tenant-based rental assistance:

The use of HOME funds for tenant-based rental assistance is an essential element of the State's consolidated plan.

Eligible Activities and Costs – It is using and will use HOME funds for eligible activities and costs, as described in 24 CFR § 92.205 through §92.209 and that it is not using and will not use HOME funds for prohibited activities, as described in §92.214.

Appropriate Financial Assistance -- Before committing any funds to a project, the State or its recipients will evaluate the project in accordance with the guidelines that it adopts for this purpose and will not invest any more HOME funds in combination with other Federal assistance than is necessary to provide affordable housing.

Emergency Solutions Grants Certifications

Each State that seeks funding under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program must provide the following certifications:

Matching Funds – The State will obtain any matching amounts required under 24 CFR 576.201 in a manner so that its sub-recipients that are least capable of providing matching amounts receive the benefit of the exception under 24 CFR 576.201(a)(2).

Discharge Policy – The State will establish and implement, to the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, policies and protocols for the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or correction programs and institutions) in order to prevent this discharge from immediately resulting in homelessness for these persons.

Confidentiality – The State will develop and implement procedures to ensure the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual provided family violence prevention or treatment services under any project assisted under the ESG program, including protection against the release of the address or location of any family violence shelter project, except with the written authorization of the person responsible for the operation of that shelter.

The State will ensure that its sub-recipients comply with the following criteria:

Major rehabilitation/conversion – If an emergency shelter's rehabilitation costs exceed 75 percent of the value of the building before rehabilitation, the building will be maintained as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed rehabilitation. If the cost to convert a building into an emergency shelter exceeds 75 percent of the value of the building after conversion, the building will be maintained as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of 10 years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed conversion. In all other cases where ESG funds are used for renovation, the building will be maintained as a shelter for homeless individuals and families for a minimum of three years after the date the building is first occupied by a homeless individual or family after the completed renovation.

Essential Services and Operating Costs – If ESG funds are used for shelter operations or essential services related to street outreach or emergency shelter, the sub-recipient will provide services or shelter to homeless individuals and families for the period during which the ESG assistance is provided, without regard to a particular site or structure, so long the applicant serves the same type of persons (e.g., families with children, unaccompanied youth, veterans, disabled individuals, or victims of domestic violence) or persons in the same geographic area.

Renovation – Any renovation carried out with ESG assistance shall be sufficient to ensure that the building involved is safe and sanitary.

Supportive Services – The sub-recipient will assist homeless individuals in obtaining permanent housing, appropriate supportive services (including medical and mental health treatment, counseling, supervision, and other services essential for achieving independent living), and other Federal State, local, and private assistance available for such individuals.

Homeless Persons Involvement – To the maximum extent practicable, the sub-recipient will involve, through employment, volunteer services, or otherwise, homeless individuals and families in constructing, renovating, maintaining, and operating facilities, in providing services assisted under the ESG program, and in providing services for occupants of facilities assisted ESG.

Consolidated Plan – All activities the sub-recipient undertakes with assistance under ESG are consistent with the State's current HUD-approved consolidated plan.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Certifications

The State HOPWA grantee certifies that:

Activities – Activities funded under the program will meet urgent needs that are not being met by available public and private sources.

Building – Any building or structure assisted under the program shall be operated for the purpose specified in the plan:

1 For at least 10 years in the case of any building or structure purchased, leased, rehabilitated, renovated, or converted with HOPWA assistance;

2 For at least three years in the case of assistance involving non-substantial rehabilitation or repair of a building or structure.

APPENDIX TO CERTIFICATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LOBBYING AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Lobbying Certification
This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.

B. Drug-Free Workplace Certification

1 By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification.

2 The certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, HUD, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.

3 Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need not be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.

4 Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or State highway department while in operation, State employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio stations).

5 If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph three).

6 The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance

77 South High Street
Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio 43215

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here;

This information with regard to the drug-free workplace required by 24 CFR part 21.

7. Definitions of terms in the Non-procurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

- "Controlled substance" means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);

- "Conviction" means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the Federal or State criminal drug statutes;

- "Criminal drug statute" means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

- "Employee" means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All "direct charge" employees; (ii) all "indirect charge" employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and (iii) temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of sub-recipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

PY 2016 Citizen Participation Plan (24 CFR Part 91.115)

(a)1. Applicability and Adoption of the Citizen Participation Plan

The Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) Community Development Division's Office of Community Development (OCD) is the State agency responsible for administering all of the programs funded through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
The HOME Investment Partnerships Program
The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program
The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program

These four programs are required to be covered by a Consolidated Plan (including an Annual Action Plan and a five-year Strategic Plan), and the Citizen Participation requirements described at 24 CFR 91.115. This description of the state's Citizen Participation Plan for Program Year 2016, which will occur from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, establishes the processes and procedures that will be followed to solicit citizen participation in the planning process. The planning process will take place during the year period, prior to the PY 2016 Consolidated Plan's July 1, 2016 effective date.

(a)2. Encouragement of Citizen Participation

Because of Ohio's size and diversity, OCD will provide opportunities for comment on the Consolidated Plan through a variety of strategies, as follows:

1. Notice of the availability of the PY 2014 Annual Performance Report will be sent to all Community Development Allocation Program recipients, as well as PY 2015 nonprofit grantees. This document will be available online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm so that it can be referenced in local public hearings. Local communities receiving comments will be asked to forward any comments to OCD, which will provide these comments to the advisory committee members during the planning process.

2. A notice about the availability of the draft PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan and Executive Summary and the notice of available auxiliary aids will be distributed to about 900 local communities and organizations for comment during the 30-day public comment period. The plan documents will be posted online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm with copies available upon request, as well as in the OCD office.

3. Each Community Development Allocation Program and Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) grant recipient is required to follow a citizen participation process that involves holding a local public hearing on funding resource availability, developing a needs statement and must develop local plans to address identified needs, as discussed in paragraph (e) below. This mechanism will provide for local citizen involvement in the state's planning process.

(a)3. Citizen and Local Government Comment on the Citizen Participation Plan Amendments.

The PY 2016 Citizen Participation Plan and Amendment Policy will be made available for comment by local communities and the general public because it will be distributed with the PY 2016 Consolidated Plan (see (a)(2) above), during both the public comment period and after the plan is approved.

This will allow for comment on both the draft plan document and the proposed planning process for the following year.

(b) Development of the Consolidated Plan

Preparing the Consolidated Plan will be the result of a process that will use an open consultation and citizen participation process that will involve internal work groups, external advisory committees, public hearings/meetings, notice publication online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm, and

considering written and oral comments. The overall process is described in detail below. (Note that specific dates cannot be given at this point, but will be identified prior to the public hearing and comment notification process.)

The first step in the planning process will be preparing the PY 2014 Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Report and the Performance Evaluation Report, a draft of which will be made available to the public for review and comment on September 1, 2015 (15 calendar days prior to its submission to the HUD area office on September 25, 2015). Notification of the availability of the Annual Report will be made through the Public Hearing on Needs notification.

On or about September 16, 2015, a Public Hearing on Needs Issues will be held with the location to be determined. The Public Hearing on Needs notification will be directly emailed to approximately 900 local communities, organizations and agencies throughout the state and published online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm. The notification will also summarize the state's planning process for the Consolidated Plan, and will solicit participation in OCD's Program Advisory Committee meetings. Comments made at the Public Hearing on Needs Issues will be distributed to the advisory committee members for their consideration during the planning process.

Additionally, throughout the year, OCD staff will meet with the State Programs Committee of the Ohio Conference of Community Development (OCCD), which convenes quarterly to discuss topics and issues related to community development. OCCD's membership includes many local community development agencies, as well as other organizations and people involved with housing and community development. OCD staff will also meet with other government agencies and organizations during PY 2016 to discuss various issues related to the Consolidated Plan. These meetings may well result in identifying additional issues and recommendations that will also be included in the PY 2016 planning process.

On or about October 5 and 6, 2015, a series of meetings with each of nine Program Advisory Committees will occur. The committees will consist of no less than 10 local governments, agencies, and organizations representatives who have been involved with OCD and OHFA programs. Participation in the committee meetings will be open to the public, insofar as space is available, although OCD may specifically invite organizations and agencies to attend to ensure participation of a range of interests and perspectives is represented.

The Program Advisory Committee meetings will be held to discuss and receive input on how these programs are being administered at the State and local levels, how well fund expenditures are meeting local communities' identified needs, especially low- and moderate-income families and individuals, and ways to improve all program administration and service delivery areas. After reviewing past program accomplishments and current status, the advisory groups will make recommendations on PY 2016 programs, from application requirements and project review criteria, to training and technical assistance, funding levels and program guidelines and requirements. The 10 Program Advisory Committees are listed in the Advisory Committee Guidelines. Minutes of the Program Advisory Committees will be posted to OCD's website, maintained in the PY 2015 Consolidated Plan records, and copies of the minutes will be mailed to each of the respective Program Advisory Committees and the members of the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee.

Based on the Program Advisory Committees' recommendations and comments received by OCD, OCD will prepare a draft PY 2016 Consolidated Plan. The draft Plan will be considered at the Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Meeting held on or about February 2, 2016.

After revisions to the draft Plan are completed, it will be posted along with the Executive Summary on or about March 1, 2016, to the OCD website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm . Posting notification will be sent to approximately 900 local governments, agencies and organizations to provide them with an opportunity for review and comment. Hard copies of the plan will be provided upon request. The notification of the availability of the draft Consolidated Plan will mark the beginning of the 30-day public comment period, which will end on or about March 31, 2016. On or about March 16, 2016, approximately two weeks after the 30-day public comment period begins, OCD will hold a Public Hearing on the draft PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan. Both oral and written comments will be accepted at the hearing. The public hearing location is to be determined at a later date. Notification of the Public Comment period, Public Hearing and the availability of the PY 2016 draft plan will be accomplished

through direct emailing to local communities and organizations, and by posting online at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm . After the Public Hearing and the end of the comment process, OCD will consider any and all comments and recommendations, and make final revisions to the plan document. OCD will prepare responses to all comments submitted on the draft PY 2016 Consolidated Plan.

OCD will submit the Plan to the Governor's office for review and signature by the Governor, or a designated representative. The PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan and consolidated Plan will then be submitted via the Integrated Disbursement and Information Systems (IDIS) website to the Columbus Area Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on or about May 15, 2016, for the required 45-day review period. Upon Plan approval by HUD, the final PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan and the Executive Summary will be posted on the OCD website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm, and notification of such posting will be sent to approximately 900 local governments, organizations and individuals. Hard copies will be made available to the general public upon request.

(c) Amendment Policy

Minor budgetary revisions to the Consolidated Plan, which are defined as changes that do not exceed 10 percent of the original budget amount, will not constitute a substantial amendment and will be made without a public hearing or notification. However, changes to existing distribution methods or program guidelines as stated in the plan document, new program initiatives, or budgetary changes in excess of 10 percent of the original budget amount will be considered a substantial amendment and will be required to go through a formal amendment process. OCD will hold a public hearing on such an amendment, and will provide notification of the proposed amendment at least 30 calendar days prior to the public hearing. The notice will summarize the nature of the proposed amendment, the public hearing date, time and location, and procedures for submitting comments. The state may either make this notification by (1) publishing a notice in several general circulation newspapers within the state, or (2) directly transmitting a notice to local governments, agencies or organizations affected by the amendment. In the event the latter method is chosen exclusively, local Community Development grantees and/or local libraries will be requested to post notice of the proposed amendment. The notice will also be posted to OCD's website. Within five business days after the public hearing, OCD will determine whether to adopt the proposed amendment, adopt a revised version of the amendment or reject the amendment. The determination will be posted to the OCD website. If the amendment is adopted, the change will be incorporated into the Consolidated Plan, along with a summary of comments on the amendment and OCD's response to such comments.

(d) Performance Reports

OCD will prepare the PY 2014 Annual Performance Report and make it available for public comment and review 15 days prior to submission to HUD, which must occur no later than 90 days after the end of the state's 2014 Program Year, which will occur on June 30, 2016. The notification and hearing process is described under section (b) above.

(e) Citizen Participation Requirements for Local Governments

Units of general local government that receive CDBG funds from the state must adopt and follow a written local citizen participation plan which:

(a) Provides for and encourages citizen participation, with particular emphasis on participation by persons of low- and moderate-income who are residents of slum and blighted areas and of areas in which Section 106 funds are proposed to be used, and in the case of a grantee described in Section 106(a), provides for participation of residents in low-and moderate-income neighborhoods as defined by the local jurisdiction;

(b) Provides citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the grantee's proposed use of funds, as required by regulations of the Secretary, and relating to the actual funds under this title; provides citizens with

reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records relating to the grantee's proposed use;

(c) Provides for technical assistance to groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in developing proposals with the level and type of assistance to be determined by the grantee;

(d) Provides for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the development of needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of program performance, which hearings shall be held after adequate notice, at times and locations convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries, and with accommodation for the disabled;

(e) Provides for a timely written answer to written complaints and grievances, within 15 working days where practicable; and,

(f) Identifies how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate. This paragraph may not be construed to restrict the responsibility or authority of the grantee for the development and execution of its community development program.

(f) Availability to the Public

Upon HUD approval, the PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan, substantial amendments and the PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan Executive Summary and PY 2014 Annual Performance Report will be available to the public upon request throughout PY 2016 and PY 2017. Copies of the Consolidated Plan will remain on OCD's website for both the current and previous years. Request for copies of these documents may be made by phone, through FAX or in writing to:

Office of Community Development
Riffe Center, 26th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-2285
Fax: (614) 752-4575

(g) Access to Records

OCD will provide citizens, public agencies and other interested parties with reasonable and timely written access to information and records relating to the state's Consolidated Plan and the state's use of this assistance under the programs covered by this Citizen Participation Plan during the preceding five years. Records pertaining to projects funded within the previous five years can be made available within 24-hours of written notice specifying which records for which access is being requested. Such notification must be sent to:

Deputy Chief
Office of Community Development
Riffe Center, 26th floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

(h) Comments and Complaints

The PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan will include a summary of comments or views made in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan or process, the Plan's amendment, or the Annual Report, as received by OCD in writing or orally at public hearings or during public comment periods during the planning process.

OCD will respond to written complaints within 15 working days of receiving such a complaint if the complaint is made in conjunction with programs covered by this Citizen Participation Plan.

If the state receives a written complaint that is made about a program or project that is administered by a sub-grantee community, OCD will refer the complaint to the local grantee community along with a transmittal letter from OCD, copied to the complainant. The local grantee community will be required to respond to the complainant in writing (with a copy of the response sent to OCD) within 15 days of the date of OCD's transmittal letter. OCD will work with the community and the complainant to ensure that the issue is resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved, and that applicable program regulations are followed.

(i) Use of Citizen Participation Plan

The state shall follow and document compliance with this Citizen Participation Plan.

(j) 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan Needs Assessment and Strategy

OCD will submit the PY 2015 – 2019 Ohio Consolidated Plan Needs Assessment and Strategy to HUD Ohio in May 2015. The state is required to submit statistical and analytical information that provides an overall picture of the state's housing, homeless, and community development needs. The information will assist in establishing priorities and allocating Federal and State resources, principally for extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income families. The information will also be used for developing specific objectives in accordance with the statutory goals of providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities. The needs information must be sufficient to support the state's strategic plan, including its priorities for allocating resources, its specific objectives and its strategy for achieving desired results.

The state drew on relevant information from previous submissions and other reports and studies, as appropriate. The process also relied on citizen input, as well as consultations with local governments, state and federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and social service agencies to obtain information on housing needs and other children's needs, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, homeless persons, and other persons served by such agencies.

The state produced a strategic plan that brought the needs and resources together in a coordinated housing and community development strategy. The strategic plan identified expected accomplishments and results the state hopes to achieve in terms of outputs and outcomes. The state plan was developed to achieve the following goals and objectives, principally for low- very low-, and extremely low-income residents:

- Provide decent housing,
- Create suitable living environments, and
- Expand economic opportunities.

The Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan citizen participation and planning process was used to solicit comments and input on developing the needs assessment and strategy, however special meetings occurred in order to deal with specific topics and issues. OCD established an e-committee to gather input obtained through surveys and by using electronic media and communication. The final version of the PY 2015–2019 Ohio Consolidated Plan Needs Assessment and Strategy will be made available on the OCD website at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm/.

OCD Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee Guidelines

The following guidelines will pertain to the advisory committees' composition and function that are established in conjunction with preparing the Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan.

1. OCD will annually establish a total of nine Program Advisory Committees as follows:

    1. Community Development Program Advisory Committee
    2. Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program Advisory Committee
    3. Residential Public Infrastructure Program Advisory Committee
    4. Economic Development Program Advisory Committee
    5. Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program Advisory Committee
    6. Housing Development Assistance Program Advisory Committee
    7. New Horizons/Fair Housing Program Advisory Committee
    8. Homeless Crisis Response Program /Housing Assistance Grant Program Advisory Committee
    9. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program Advisory Committee

    Each committee will consist of at least 10 members selected by OCD.

    Committee members must give OCD at least 24 hours' notice if they will be unable to attend a planned meeting for which their attendance was previously confirmed. In the event a member is absent from meeting and has not provided notification, OCD may replace that committee member.

2. OCD will annually establish a Consolidated Plan Advisory Committee, comprised of approximately 28 members, representing the following areas:

County Commissioners Association	2 members
Ohio Municipal League	2 members
Ohio Township Association	1 member
Ohio Conference of Community Development	2 members
Heritage Ohio	1 member
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)	1 member
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	1 member
Ohio Development Association	1 member
Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)	1 member
Builders/Developers/Realtors	1 member*
Nonprofit Organizations	4 members*
Ohio Civil Rights Commission	1 member
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)	1 member
Ohio Housing Authorities Conference	1 member
USDA Rural Development Office	1 member
Local Development District or Governor's Office of Appalachia	1 member
Ohio Community Development Corporation Association	1 member
Ohio Disabilities Planning Council	1 member
Private Lending Community	1 member*
Ohio Rural Development Partnership	1 member
Ohio Department of Health	1 member
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	1 member

    **These members are limited to a two-year maximum term.*

OCD reserves the right to include representatives of other groups or to select alternative members if those initially selected are unable to attend the committee meetings or participate in the planning process.

Responses to Comments on the Draft PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan

The Office of Community Development will hold the 30-day public comment period beginning on February 28, 2015, along with a Public Hearing that is scheduled for March 13, 2015, in the Riffe Center on the 19th Floor. All comments received along with the corresponding responses prepared by OCD and the OHFA concerning the Draft PY 2015 Ohio Consolidated Plan will be included in this section.

Acronym Listing

166	166 Loan Program, Office of Strategic Business Investment Division, Ohio Development Services Agency
412	Business Development Account (412), Office of Strategic Business Investment Division, Ohio Development Services Agency
629	Roadwork Development Account (629), Office of Strategic Business Investment Division, Ohio Development Services Agency
AMI	Area Median Income
ARC	Appalachia Regional Commission
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant Program
CDC	Community Development Corporation
CSD	Community Services Division
CDFF	Community Development Finance Fund
CHDO	Community Housing Development Organization
CHIP	Community Housing Impact and Preservation
COAD	Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
COHHIO	Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grant Program
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
GOA	Governor's Office of Appalachia
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
HOME	HOME Investment Partnerships Program
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
IDIS	Integrated Disbursement and Information Systems
LIHTC	Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
LMI	Low- and Moderate-Income
OCA	Office of Community Assistance, Ohio Development Services Agency
OCD	Office of Community Development, Ohio Development Services Agency
ODA	Ohio Department of Aging
ODE	Ohio Department of Education
ODMHAS	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
ODJFS	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
ODODD	Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

ODNR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODSA	Ohio Development Services Agency
ODOT	Ohio Department of Transportation
OE	Office of Energy, Ohio Development Services Agency
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OCD	Office of Community Development
OHFA	Ohio Housing Finance Agency
OHTF	Ohio Housing Trust Fund
OITP	Ohio Investment Training Program, Workforce Talent Division, Ohio Development Services Agency
OSDC	Ohio Statewide Development Corporation
OPWC	Ohio Public Works Commission
OWDA	Ohio Water Development Authority
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (ODMH)
PJ	Participating Jurisdiction (HOME Program)
PY	Program Year
RDA	Rural Development Administration
RLF	Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund
SAFAH	Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless
SBA-504	Small Business Administration, 504 Loan Program
SBA-7A	Small Business Administration, 7(A) Loan Guaranty Program
SFY	State Fiscal Year