



October 19, 2012

TO: Eligible Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program Applicants
FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development
SUBJECT: FY 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, the Ohio Development Services Agency's (ODSA's) Office of Community Development (OCD) expects to distribute approximately \$5 million of Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) dollars through the Housing Assistance Grant Program (Housing Program). The application submission deadline is December 14, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Background

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

Exception: FY 2012 Housing Program award recipients that received a two-year grant are not eligible to apply unless a waiver is requested and received. A waiver may be requested if: the agency has recently expanded an existing funded housing program after January 1, 2011 and/or the agency is planning to expand an existing funded housing program prior to December 31, 2013. Agencies can also request a waiver to address other factors which place future operations in jeopardy. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and received by Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief, OCD, 77 South High Street-24th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001, on or before November 14, 2012 by 5:00 p.m.

Eligible Categories

Applicants may request Housing Program funds for each eligible category for the two-year period beginning March 1, 2013 and ending February 28, 2015. The maximum amount that applicants may request per category is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Category, Maximum Award, Grant Period. Rows include Emergency Home Repair/Handicapped Accessibility Modifications (\$500,000, 2 years) and Down Payment Assistance/Homebuyer Counseling (\$150,000, 2 years).

Exception: Applicants can request a waiver to exceed the \$500,000 cap for emergency home repair/ handicapped accessibility modifications. However, these requests are limited to agencies with large urban or multi-county service areas.

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Requests must include statistics, such as local housing needs and program waiting lists demonstrating the need to exceed the cap for emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications. **All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and received by Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief, OCD, 77 South High Street-24th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001, on or before November 14, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

Program Funding Cycle

The program funding cycle will begin on March 1, 2013. Applicants should apply for a two-year grant; however, OCD reserves the right to award either a one-year or a two-year grant to successful applicants based on the application's review score or other factors. In addition, OCD reserves the right to award grants at less than the requested amount.

Additional Program Information

Additional information regarding the FY 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program, including the program's rating criteria, threshold requirements, etc. is available in the ***FY 2012 Ohio Consolidated Plan***, which is posted on http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm.

Application

The FY 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program application and instructions are posted on http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm.

Award Announcements

OCD will make the FY 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program award announcements in January, 2012. The award announcements will be posted on OCD's web site at http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm.

Questions

Questions regarding the FY 2012 Housing Assistance Grant Program should be directed to the OCD Supportive Housing Section staff at (614) 466-2285.

MAH/BJ/njh