



October 23, 2014

TO: Eligible Program Year 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program Applicants
FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development
SUBJECT: Program Year 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability

In Program Year (PY) 2014, the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development expects to distribute approximately \$5.3 million of Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars through the Housing Assistance Grant Program (Housing Program). The application submission deadline is December 4, 2014 at 11:59 p.m.

Background

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

Exception: PY 2013 Housing Program award recipients that received a two-year grant are not eligible to apply unless a waiver is granted by the Office of Community Development. A waiver may be requested if: the agency has recently expanded an existing funded housing program after January 1, 2014 and/or the agency is planning to expand an existing funded housing program prior to December 31, 2015. Agencies can also request a waiver to address other factors which place future operations in jeopardy. The waiver request must include a description of the factors supporting the need for a waiver. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and addressed to:

Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief
Office of Community Development
77 South High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

All waiver requests must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2014.

Eligible Categories

Applicants may request Housing Program funds for each eligible category for the two-year period beginning March 1, 2015 and ending February 28, 2017. 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, Two years) and Down Payment Assistance/Homebuyer Counseling (\$150,000, Two years).

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

Program Funding Cycle

The program funding cycle will begin on March 1, 2015. Applicants should apply for a two-year grant; however, the Office of Community Development 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, the Office of Community Development reserves the right to award grants at less than the requested amount.

Additional Program Information

Additional information regarding the PY 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program, including the program's rating criteria, threshold requirements, etc. is available in the ***PY 2014 Ohio Consolidated Plan***, which is posted on http://www.development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm.

Application Training

OCD will conduct the Housing Assistance Grant Program application training on Thursday, November 6, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The training will take place at the Riffe Center, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio on the 31st floor. Paid parking is available approximately two blocks south at Columbus Commons Parking Garage on Rich Street.

The PY 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program application and instructions are posted on http://www.development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm.

Award Announcements

The Office of Community Development will make the PY 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program award announcements in January 2015. The award announcements will be posted on the Office of Community Development's website at http://www.development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm.

Questions

Questions regarding the PY 2014 Housing Assistance Grant Program should be directed to Bob Johnson at 614-752-8096 or other Office of Community Development Supportive Housing Section staff at (614) 466-2285.

MAH/BJ/DG