



October 24, 2013

TO: Eligible Fiscal Year 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program Applicants
FROM: Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, 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 13, 2013 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 as well as 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 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, 2013 and/or the agency is planning to expand an existing funded Housing Program prior to December 31, 2014. 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
Ohio Development Services Agency
77 South High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

All waiver requests must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2013.

Eligible Categories

Applicants may request Housing Program funds for each eligible category for the two-year period beginning March 1, 2014 and ending February 28, 2016. 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).

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Applicants can request a waiver to exceed the \$500,000 cap for emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications (see previous page). 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, 2014. 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 FY 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program, including the program's rating criteria, threshold requirements, etc. is available in the ***FY 2013 Ohio Consolidated Plan***, which is posted on [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_ocp.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_ocp.htm).

### **Application**

The FY 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program application and instructions are posted on [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_homelessagp.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm).

### **Award Announcements**

The Office of Community Development will make the FY 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program award announcements in January 2014. The award announcements will be posted on the Office of Community Development's website at [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_homelessagp.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_homelessagp.htm).

### **Questions**

Questions regarding the FY 2013 Housing Assistance Grant Program should be directed to the Office of Community Development Supportive Housing Section staff at (614) 466-2285.

MAH/BJ/ehg