



March 6, 2013

TO: FY 2013 Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) Discretionary Grant Program Eligible Applicants

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

SUBJECT: FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability and Application

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The FY 2013 Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) Discretionary Grant Program application submission deadline is **April 5, 2013 at 5 p.m.** The program, administered by the Office of Community Development (OCD), provides funding for target of opportunity projects and innovative proposals that will principally benefit persons with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income and meets the OHTF rules and requirements. Applications must be submitted to:

Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief  
Ohio Development Services Agency  
Office of Community Development  
77 South High Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

### Funding Availability

In June 2013, the OHTF Advisory Committee is expected to recommend the FY 2013 OHTF funding allocations as well as the FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program applications.

### Program Information

In FY 2013, the following rules and regulations will apply to the OHTF Discretionary Grant Program:

#### *Grant Ceiling*

The level of funds is negotiated based upon need. OHTF Discretionary Grant Program grants for individual special projects typically will not exceed \$200,000 annually. Applicants interested in requesting more than \$200,000 should discuss the project with OCD staff.

#### *Matching Funds*

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

#### *Eligible Applicants*

Applicants may include nonprofit organizations, units of local government, public housing authorities, private developers and lenders and consortia of any eligible applicants.

#### *Eligible Activities*

Proposals considered for discretionary funds must be inappropriate for funding from other state housing programs, either because of 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 FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program application submission deadline is April 5, 2013.

*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 Department of Development 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 availability, affordability or accessibility of housing;
  - 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.
4. Extent to which the project is to be sponsored/supported by statewide or regional organizations or agencies involved in low-income housing. Preference will be given to statewide projects.

**FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program Application**

The FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program application is available online at [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_hf.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_hf.htm) (see "Program" section in the left-hand navigation bar).

Questions regarding the FY 2013 OHTF Discretionary Grant Program application process should be directed to Mike Hiler at (614) 466-2285 or Michael.Hiler@development.ohio.gov.

MAH/ehg

Enclosure