



August 15, 2016

TO: Eligible Program Year 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program Applicants
FROM: Matthew LaMantia, Interim Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development
SUBJECT: Program Year 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability

In Program Year (PY) 2016, the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development expects to distribute approximately \$4.4 million of Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars through the Housing Assistance Grant Program. The application submission deadline is November 17, 2016 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 2015 Housing Program award recipients that received a two-year grant are not eligible to apply unless the Office of Community Development grants a waiver. A waiver may be requested if: the agency has recently expanded an existing funded housing program after January 1, 2016 and/or the agency is planning to expand an existing funded housing program prior to December 31, 2017. 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:

Matthew LaMantia, Interim 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 October 20, 2016.\*

Eligible Categories

Applicants may request Housing Program funds for each eligible category for the two-year period beginning March 1, 2017 and ending February 28, 2019. 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).

\* Conditional based on application being available in OCEAN by October 10, 2016.

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. **A demonstration of need does not guarantee OCD will grant a waiver request.**

### **Program Funding Cycle**

The program grant will begin on March 1, 2017. 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 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program, including the program's rating criteria, threshold requirements, etc. is available online in the [PY 2016 Ohio Consolidated Plan](#).

### **Application Availability**

The PY 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program application and instructions will be posted on or before October 10, 2016 on the Office of Community Development's Technical Assistance Homeless Assistance Grant Program web page. To access the application and instructions, click [here](#).

### **Award Announcements**

The Office of Community Development will make the PY 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program award announcements in January 2017. The award announcements will be posted on the Office of Community Development's Technical Assistance Homeless Assistance Grant Program web page. To find award information, click [here](#).

### **Questions**

Questions regarding the PY 2016 Housing Assistance Grant Program should be directed to Bob Johnson at 614-752-8096 or the applicant's Supportive Housing Representative, which can be found on the Office of Community Development's Supportive Housing [service area map](#).

ML/SAG/BJ/DG