



August 17, 2015

TO: Eligible Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program Applicants

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

SUBJECT: Program Year 2015 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program Application and Instructions – Notification of Funding Availability

In Program Year (PY) 2015, Office of Community Development (OCD) expects to distribute approximately **\$979,123 for the state of Ohio and \$286,986 for the city of Dayton totaling \$1,266,159** of Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program funds on a competitive basis, to the following eligible applicants:

- Private, nonprofit organizations incorporated with Ohio's Secretary of State and granted 501(c)3 status by the Internal Revenue Service; and
- Units of local government, i.e., cities, townships, villages, counties, etc.

Program Summary

The HOPWA Program's primary goal is to provide grantees with the resources and incentives to devise and implement long-term comprehensive strategies for meeting low-income persons with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases and their families' housing needs. Housing and services that assist low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS to obtain and maintain affordable housing are activities of primary importance.

HOPWA funds may be used to provide:

- Short-term rent, mortgage and utility payments to prevent homelessness;
- Acquisition, rehabilitation or construction of permanent housing;
- Tenant-based rental assistance;
- Operation of a community residence;
- Permanent housing placement;
- Referral to drug and alcohol abuse treatment and counseling;
- Limited case management;
- Respite care;
- Food and/or nutrition services;
- Activities of daily living;
- Day care;
- Transportation;
- Housing information services; and
- General administration

Program Requirements

1. Applicants must match the requested amount of HOPWA funds at a minimum ratio of 1:1.

2. The maximum grant request is based on the percentage of cases of persons living with HIV/AIDS within the project's service area when compared to the balance of state (areas outside the Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland service areas). Figures promulgated by the Ohio Department of Health are used for this calculation. An adjustment factor of 1.10 is used to account for increased need providing the applicant to apply for 110% of the amount determined by the percentage of cases of persons living with HIV/AIDS within the project's service area. The 2014 *State of Ohio HIV Infections Annual Surveillance Statistics* is available [online](#). The Office of Community Development may consider requests for amounts larger than the maximum amount; however, written approval from the Office of Community Development must be obtained.
3. **Contact the Office of Community Development immediately if the proposed project includes housing development activities.** This will facilitate coordination with appropriate persons regarding compliance with the Uniform Relocation Act and Environmental Review requirements. Failure to coordinate with the Office of Community Development on these compliance issues can prevent project funding.
4. No fee, except rent, may be charged of any eligible person for any housing or services provided with HOPWA funds.
5. Applicants are required to clarify any requests to use HOPWA funds for costs that may appear to be Medicaid reimbursable (i.e., case management, some health care related costs, etc.).
6. Costs associated with drug abuse and alcohol abuse treatment/counseling are not eligible. Eligible costs include referral or coordination-related activities rather than actual treatment.
7. Organizations serving a multi-county area must have an Outreach Plan detailing how outreach is conducted in each county served.
8. Organizations providing rental or mortgage assistance must develop a Housing Plan for each client receiving these services. The plan must include, at minimum, current needs, resources available, and a plan that will indicate how the client will be able to meet ongoing housing payments after the assistance is no longer available.
9. To assist in assessing program feasibility and local coordination efforts, the Ohio Development Services Agency reserves the right to discuss applications with the applicant and/or local officials/organizations.
10. The Ohio Development Services Agency reserves the right to fund proposals for a lesser amount than requested.

Rating Summary

Rating System Principles:

- (1) Degree to which the proposal meets the needs of the target population;
- (2) Evidence of local resource coordination and need for gap funding resources;
- (3) Evidence of local support;
- (5) Financial stability/management and applicant/administering agency stability; and
- (6) Applicant's ability to administer the program/administrative capacity.

Rating Criteria:

1. **Need:** Projects will be evaluated based on the degree to which they meet the unmet needs of the community to be served by the program; need of the area's population for HOPWA eligible programming and services as described in the PY 2015 Consolidated Plan; and extent to which the proposal is consistent with local needs and fits into a community-wide strategy addressing those needs.
2. **Program Design:** Projects will be evaluated based on the type and quality of proposed activities: emphasis on housing and housing-related activities, especially operation of a community residence providing long-term housing; outreach and referral systems; criteria for selecting residents for housing and services;

method for verifying client eligibility and ensuring that client needs cannot be met through other programs; case management plan and how that plan will help meet the client's needs; measures ensuring that clients receive the appropriate type, delivery and level of service; and rationale for discontinuing or limiting services.

3. **Coordination:** Projects will be evaluated on the degree to which they coordinate with other mainstream organizations in the community to meet the housing and service needs of persons with AIDS; extent of coordination with units of local governments, local health departments or other organizations serving persons with AIDS or related diseases; extent of coordination with local Ryan White Consortium and/or AIDS task force, support from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Service Consortia and the HIV/AIDS Coordinator for the Area.
4. **Financial Management:** Projects will be evaluated based on their financial management practices: internal control procedures; reasonableness of proposed budget; and amount and diversity of other funds committed.
5. **Administrative Capacity:** Projects will be evaluated on the capability of the organization's staff to implement the proposed project; organization's history, including its experience in implementing the proposed activities; key staff's relevant educational background, professional certifications, licenses and work experience; and performance on recent or current grant(s), if applicable.

Application Completion Procedures

Copies of the application and instructions may be found at the following web page:
http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_hopwa.htm

All applications must be submitted online through OCEAN, OCD's online grant management system. The application submission deadline is **November 2, 2015 by 11:59 p.m.** Applicants needing assistance with OCEAN are encouraged to contact Kimberly Alexander at (614) 466-0740 or Kimberly.Alexander@development.ohio.gov or Scott Gary at (614) 466-9357 or at Scott.gary@development.ohio.gov.

Questions regarding the HOPWA program should be directed to Kimberly Alexander at (614) 466-0740 or Kimberly.Alexander@development.ohio.gov.

MAH/SG/KDA/DG