



Community Services Division
Office of Community Development

March 12, 2015

TO: Homeless Crisis Response Program Applicants

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

SUBJECT: PY 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program Application and Training Notice

The Homeless Crisis Response Program funds programs that prevent individuals and families from entering homelessness, provide for emergency shelter operations and rapidly move persons from homelessness to permanent housing. The program consists of two components: 1) emergency shelter operations; and 2) housing stability, including homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

Emergency shelter programs currently funded by the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) and in good standing are guaranteed a renewal of 85 percent of their previous grant award, with any request above that amount subject to competitive evaluation. While emergency shelters not currently funded by ODSA may apply competitively through the Program Year (PY) 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program application process, ODSA's Office of Community Development (OCD) does not anticipate funding many, if any, new emergency shelters or shelter expansions.

OCD will rate applications based on the following criteria:

- Proposal content;
- Outcomes;
- Collaboration;
- Targeting and need;
- Capacity;
- HMIS data quality; and
- Effectiveness.

The Housing Stability component of the Homeless Crisis Response Program will be awarded to state-appointed nonprofit organizations and local units of government for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities on an allocation basis. Each Homeless Planning Region in the state has a single OCD-designated entity as the lead agency which will be eligible to apply for the Housing Stability Program funding.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations and units of local government for emergency shelter activities, and state-appointed nonprofit organizations and local units of government for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities.

PY 2014 Homeless Crisis Response Program emergency shelter award recipients that received a two-year award are **not eligible** to apply for PY 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program funds, unless the applicant requests a waiver and it is approved by the Ohio Development Services Agency. All waiver requests must be submitted in writing and received by OCD on or before **Monday, June 8, 2015, by 5 p.m. EST.**

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An application training will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at the Ohio Department of Transportation Auditorium, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223. Additional details about the training will be posted on ODSA's website in late April.

OCD implemented an online grant management system, in PY 2014. Training on the new system and application completion will be covered at the May 26th training. OCD will also host a supplemental introductory training session on online system at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio's (COHHIO) Annual Conference on Monday, April 13, 2015. Attendance at this session is optional, but it is an opportunity to learn about the system. OCD staff will be available for any technical assistance pertaining to the application or the online system after May 26, 2015.

The Homeless Crisis Response Program application will be available to applicants starting June 1, 2015. Applicants must submit the PY 2015 HCRP application electronically through OCEAN by **Wednesday, July 1, 2015, at 11:59p.m. EST.**

Funding for the PY 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program has not yet been determined. OCD expects to have an approximate funding level by late April.

Questions should be directed to Patrick Hart, Supportive Housing Specialist, at 614-466-8292 or patrick.hart@development.ohio.gov.