



HELP Program

(Program Factsheet)

Loan Officer

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Program Overview

The HELP Program was established by OHCS in 1991 to provide funding for safe, decent, and sanitary housing affordable to very low-income families and individuals. OHCS has, at its discretion, set-aside HELP funds for these distinct populations; (1) Persons in recovery; (2) Homeless, including victims of domestic violence; and (3) Group homes for persons with developmental disabilities or chronic mental illness.

Program Description

Applications are accepted as part of OHCS' Consolidated Funding Cycle (CFC). Applicants must either be a unit of general local government, a housing authority or a nonprofit organization. The funds are provided in the form of a grant to sponsors for the development and construction of housing for very low-income families and individuals. Very low-income is defined as 50 percent or less of the area median income.

Program and Eligibility Requirements

The maximum funding amount for any one project is \$200,000. A Financing Adjustment Factor Savings Funds Use Agreement (FAF) must be executed and sent to escrow for recording before funds can be disbursed. The FAF agreement imposes certain restrictions and requirements on the use of the funds. Sponsors must certify tenant incomes upon initial tenant application, and annually thereafter for 10-years.

For More Information

To talk with someone about developing affordable housing in your area, contact a **Regional Advisor to the Department** at 503.986.2000 or visit the website at: http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/DO_RegionalAdvisors.shtml

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.

