



Housing Opportunity Bill

Training for Practitioners

(Home Ownership Assistance Program)

For More Information

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Program objective

OHCS funds organizations to train homebuyer counselors and other affordable housing advocates. The training increases the number of counselors qualified to provide homebuyer counseling and education, as well as practitioner knowledge of current issues in the field. Trainings also include strategies to address the minority homeownership gap.

Expected Outcomes

- Increase the capacity and number of Homeownership Counselors by 10 percent, with a focus on counselors and organizations that serve minority populations.
- Increase number of counselors from organizations that serve minority populations participating in homeownership education trainings by 20 percent.
- 150 counselors per year will attend trainings.

Funds available

OHCS projects that \$68,000 in resources will be available in the 2011-2013 biennium. OHCS will announce a competitive application biennially.

Eligible entities

The following organizations are eligible for funding under the program:

- Non-profit organization registered to do business in Oregon
- Housing Authorities
- Local governments

OHCS will consider the following when making funding decisions:

- The nature of training opportunities available during the grant year for counselors/homeownership educators and other affordable housing advocates.
- How the training will help achieve the legislative goal of increasing homeownership among low- and very low-income Oregonians, especially minority populations.
- Outputs/outcomes – number of trainings, geographic distribution of training sessions and of participants.
- The applicant's ability to provide organized training using skilled educators with knowledge of lending, homeowner and foreclosure mitigation counseling, cultural diversity and other affordable housing issues.
- Organizational and administrative experience with similar programs and examples of previous trainings organized and provided; audience served; success of training.

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Monitoring, compliance and reporting

OHCS may monitor training sessions, interview participants, and review participant evaluations.

Grantees will provide regular reports to OHCS including curricula, agendas, participant evaluations, and trainer resumes or biographies.

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, homelessness prevention and intervention, energy assistance, and community service programs.