HELP Program

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: Persons in recovery; Homeless, including victims of domestic violence; and Group homes for persons with developmental disabilities or chronic mental illness. Applications are accepted as part of OHCS' Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) process. 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.
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.
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