

# Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

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## Homelessness Prevention Program

Funding from ARRA

### For More Information

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### Program Overview

The Homelessness Grant Program (Homelessness Prevention Fund) through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide financial assistance and services to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

The funds under this program are intended to help individuals and families who would be homeless but for this assistance. The funds will provide for a variety of assistance, including: short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management. The ARRA funding does not provide for mortgage assistance, foreclosure prevention, or shelter operations.

### ARRA Funding

ARRA provided Homelessness Grant funding of \$1.5 billion nationwide. The Oregon allocations are as follows:

Oregon State Program	\$ 7,873,436
Clackamas County	\$ 871,505
Eugene	\$ 567,404
Portland	\$ 4,172,282
Salem	\$ 597,562
<u>Washington County</u>	<u>\$ 824,990</u>
Total Oregon	\$14,907,179

The Oregon State Program will serve areas not receiving a direct allocation.

### Eligibility

OHCS will be developing program guidelines and allocating funds to Community Action Agencies in accordance with ARRA Homelessness Grant program rules and the OHCS Consolidated Plan approved by HUD.

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### Other Requirements/Criteria

- Housing relocation and stabilization services, including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, credit repair, security or utility deposits, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location, moving cost assistance, and case management;
- Grantees shall collect data on the use of the funds awarded and persons served with this assistance in the HUD Homeless Management Information System (“HMIS”) or other comparable database;
- Grantees shall expend at least 60 percent of funds within two years of award, and 100 percent of funds within three years of such date, and the HUD Secretary may recapture unexpended funds in violation of the two-year expenditure requirement and reallocate such funds to grantees in compliance with that requirement;
- The HUD Secretary may waive statutory or regulatory provisions (except provisions for fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment) necessary to facilitate the timely expenditure of funds. The HUD Secretary shall publish a notice to establish such requirements as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section within 30 days of February 17, 2009, and this notice shall take effect upon issuance.

### Implementation Process/Steps

At least 60 percent of funds must be spent within two years; all funds must be spent within three years. HUD has released additional reporting requirements. For more information on implementation, see the HUD website at:

<http://www.hud.gov/recovery/homeless-prevention.cfm>

In order to receive funding, the state must submit a substantial amendment to its 2008 Annual Action Plan of the Consolidated Plan to HUD by May 18<sup>th</sup>. When funds are made available to the state, OHCS will then allocate funds to Community Action Agencies per the agreements in the Consolidated Plan.

*Last updated 4/16/09*

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.



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