



February 29, 2016

TO: SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program Eligible Applicants

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

SUBJECT: SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability and Application

The Stage Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program application submission deadline is **March 31, 2016 at 5 p.m.** The program, administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development, provides funding for target of opportunity projects and innovative proposals that will principally benefit persons with incomes at or below 50 percent of the area median income and meets the Ohio Housing Trust Fund rules and requirements. Projects or activities must be supported by statewide or regional organizations that serve multiple counties, or provide statewide services. Applications must be submitted to:

Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief
Office of Community Development
Ohio Development Services Agency
77 South High Street, 26th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Funding Availability

In June 2016, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee is expected to consider the SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund allocations and the SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program applications.

Program Information

In SFY 2017, the following rules and regulations will apply to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program:

Grant Ceiling

The funding level is negotiated based upon need. Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program grants for individual special projects typically will not exceed \$200,000 annually. Applicants interested in requesting more than \$200,000 should discuss the project with Office of Community Development staff.

Matching Funds

Projects should evidence at least a dollar-to-dollar match in cash and/or direct in kind services.

Eligible Applicants

Nonprofit organizations, units of local government, public housing authorities, private developers and lenders and consortia of any eligible applicants.

Eligible Activities

Proposals considered for target of opportunity funds must be inappropriate for funding from other state housing programs, either because of eligibility, program scope, or project timing. Projects must result in identifiable outcomes and beneficiaries (cannot be seed money or start-up funds).

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Application Timing

The SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program application submission deadline is **March 31, 2016**.

Program Period

The program period will be determined through negotiations with the Office of Community Development. Proposals may request multi-year funding for up to three years.

Application Review

Upon application submission, Office of Community Development staff, other state agency staff (if appropriate), and the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Advisory Committee will review the application(s). The Ohio Development Services Agency's Director will make the final decision regarding project funding.

Rating System Principles

1. Extent to which the project activity impacts low- and moderate-income persons by:
 - improving housing conditions;
 - increasing housing availability, affordability, or accessibility;
 - educating and informing the public about housing issues, including housing counseling; and
 - preventing homelessness, through direct housing assistance or supportive services.
2. Extent to which the project or activity fills an unmet need or gap.
3. Extent to which the project creates or applies innovative techniques, and the extent to which such techniques can be replicated or used as a model.

SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program Application

The SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program application has been made available on the Ohio Development Services Agency's Ohio Housing Trust Fund web page.

Questions regarding the SFY 2017 Ohio Housing Trust Fund Target of Opportunity Grant Program application process should be directed to Michael A. Hiler, Deputy Chief, Office of Community Development, at (614) 466-2285 or Michael.Hiler@development.ohio.gov.

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Enclosure