

A. HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

The Housing Assistance Grant (HA) Program provides funding to address housing problems of low-and moderate-income persons. Housing Assistance Program (HA) funds will be distributed through an annual grant application selection process.

1. Eligibility Requirements for Housing Assistance Applications: Communities must have an identified project with a developer approved by OCD.

2. Eligible Activities: Eligible HA activities are rehabilitation of occupied or vacant multi-family housing units, conversion of non-residential structures, homeownership/downpayment assistance, construction of new units by a non-profit community based housing development organization

3. Matching Funds: Applicants for housing activities must provide a cash match of at least 20% of the total HA project cost.

4. Maximum HA Grant Amount: \$500,000

5. Maximum Administrative Costs: The HA Program may allow expenditures for general and/or rehabilitation administration. The total general and rehabilitation administration expenditures may not exceed 15% of the grant amount. **Please refer to OCD Policy Statement #2 for more information regarding CDBG administrative costs.**

6. Selection Process: The selection process for all HA applications will consist of two stages:

(a)Stage 1:

Letter of Intent: All communities wishing to submit a HA application must submit a Letter of Intent. After review for completeness and eligibility, units of general local government may be invited to make a full application. Please refer to Page 5 of this document for Program deadlines and due dates.

(b)Stage 2:

Application: The maximum length of an application is **four pages (not counting required attachments)**. Please refer to Page 5 of this document for Program deadlines and due dates. Members of the Review Team will assign a Review Point Total for each application reviewed. Review Point Totals will consist of the sum of the three scoring areas below and be determined by the total of each sub-scoring area. A maximum of 100 points is obtainable.

Impact (40 points):

- A description of the specific housing problems to be addressed with HA funds – 15 points
- How the problems were identified – 10 points
- How these issues affect LMI persons in the community or region – 15 points

Development Strategy (40 points):

- A description of the plan proposed to implement the housing project – 20 points
- Summary of the activities and use of HA funds –20 points

Citizen Participation (20 points):

- How overall citizen participation process directly relates to identification of solution strategies and application development - 4 points
- Effective use of any media (newspapers, radio, TV, etc.) to further public awareness and participation – 4 points
- Relevance of listed meeting/hearing activities/comments (not counting required public hearing) on application and project development – 4 points
- Involvement of potential LMI project beneficiaries in development of the application and project and how the required public hearing relates to the application development and citizen participation process – 4 points
- How other local resources (cash and in-kind) are directly related to the project and the establishment of a cash value equivalent for all in-kind commitments – 4 points

7. Final Application Score – Each application will receive a Final Application Score assigned by members of the Review Team. The top scoring applicants will be considered for an invitation to proceed to the Project Development Phase as funds allow.