

Missouri Housing Development Commission

Housing First Program (HFP)

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

NOFA Date: 6/24/2013

Purpose:

The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) hereby notifies interested organizations of the availability of funds to provide assistance to very low-income Missourians. The funds are as indicated below:

\$420,000 from Missouri Housing Development Commission Fund Balance.

Deadline:

Applications for funding will be accepted by MHDC until 4:30 p.m. CDT on September 6, 2013. All **applications received after the deadline will be rejected** and returned to the sender. Decisions regarding funding of proposals are scheduled to be made by the commission in December 2013.

Requirements:

- Applicants must be a nonprofit, or for profit corporation or partnership entity formed pursuant to applicable Missouri law, must be an entity in good standing with the state of Missouri and provide housing or housing services. **MHDC Fund Balance monies will not be awarded to individuals.**
- **All proposals must be submitted on the 2014 application** form included on the MHDC website (<http://www.mhdc.com/ci/index.htm>).
- Funds must be used to support upcoming, new or existing HFP's in Missouri. Recipients of the HFP (also known as rapid re-housing) must be any person or persons (families) that are homeless (by the HUD definition) or at-risk of homelessness and who are considered low income (50% area median income or below) and in need of affordable housing. *The HFP's do not have to be standalone entities; it may be integrated into existing systems and programs.*

Housing First Program (HFP)

The objective is to increase permanent housing solutions to address the homeless and at-risk of homelessness population.

“Housing First”, or rapid re-housing as it is also known, is housing persons before services or treatment begins, and provides affordable housing services for multiple sites. The methodology is that homeless populations will respond to interventions and services with greater success if they are in their own housing first. The HFP provides a link between housing and services; however, the recipient is not obligated to receive case management or treatment in order to receive Housing First services. The HFP is a component to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Those who are at-risk of another episode of homelessness receive support and assistance to build skills to obtain permanent housing. Empowerment is central to the effectiveness of the Housing First program to help recipients to make choices and identify their needs to make permanent changes in their lives.

The HFP is designed to increase housing stability for people who traditionally have been difficult to house or have had difficulty maintaining their housing. The HFP can help to stabilize a recipient and promote success in permanent housing. The HFP can be scattered site that provides services for multiple locations.

Contributors to program success include the following:

- Access to a substantial supply of permanent housing, recipient driven services, providing housing that recipients like, a wide array of supportive services, and diverse funding streams for housing and services.
- Community based emphasized services and effective staffing structure to ensure service delivery.
- Program commits to permanently housing targeted recipients; Initial housing may be transitional while waiting for permanent housing.
- Supportive services are offered and made readily available; the program does not require participation in these services or any other services to remain in the housing.
- Use of assertive outreach to engage and offer housing to homeless people or at-risk of homelessness with mental illness who are reluctant to enter shelters or engage in services. Once in housing, a *low demand* approach accommodates recipient alcohol and substance use, so that “relapse” will not result in the client losing housing.
- The continued effort to provide case management and to hold housing for recipients, even if they leave their program housing for short periods.

Housing First Program (HFP)

The HFP will provide the following components:

- Service mechanisms to the operation/management of affordable housing
- Crisis intervention and short-term case management
- Recipient-directed assistance in accessing neighborhood and community resources and services
- Voluntary participation of recipients in programs and services
- Recipient participation in the decision-making process
- Recipients, management, and service providers work together as a team
- Ongoing support and monitoring available for recipients as requested

Program specifications to be awarded grant monies:

- The program will follow the HFP model similar to the model explained above.
- Allowable use of the money includes: Support for upcoming, new or existing housing first programs in Missouri. 90% is allocated towards program implementation, 10% is allocated towards administrative costs of the program.
- The HFP will house low-income Missourians (50% area median income or below). Only the HFP's will be awarded the funding.
- *The HFP's do not have to be standalone entities; it may be integrated into existing systems and programs.*
- Collaboration with community shelters, programs and landlords must be an integral part of services and resources for your program.

Contact Information:

If there are any questions, please contact:

Joselyn Pfliegier, Community Initiatives Coordinator

Phone – (816) 759 – 7228

Email – jpfliegier@mhdc.com

Please send all applications to:

Missouri Housing Development Commission

Attention: Housing First Program

Community Initiatives Department

3435 Broadway

Kansas City, MO 64111