

**Missouri Housing Development Commission**

**Housing First Program (HFP)**

**FY 2016 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)**

**NOFA Date: 6/29/2015**

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 4, 2015. 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 2015.

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 2016 application** form included on the MHDC website (<http://www.mhdc.com/ci/index.htm>).
- Funds must be used to support upcoming, new or existing Housing First programs (HFP) in Missouri. Recipients of the HFP must be any person or persons (families) that are homeless (by the HUD definition) and who are considered low income (50% of area median income or below).

**Housing First Program (HFP)**

***The objective is to increase permanent housing solutions to address the needs of homeless and chronically homeless persons.***

*“Housing First” is a service approach that emphasizes permanently housing homeless persons before offering any services and/or treatment. The philosophy is that households that are homeless will respond to other services and needs with greater success if they are in their own stable, affordable housing first. Housing First programs are ideal for providing a link between housing and a variety of other services. Housing First recipients are not obligated to participate in case management, services, and/or treatment in order to receive housing assistance; instead, they simply need to abide by the requirements of their standard lease agreement. Housing First recipients should receive support and assistance in order to*

*obtain and remain permanently housed. 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 Housing First approach is intended to increase housing stability for those who traditionally have experienced difficulty maintaining housing. Housing First can help to stabilize a recipient and promote success in permanent housing.*

Contributors to program success include the following:

- Access to a substantial supply of permanent housing , and diverse funding streams for housing and services.
- Housing is not contingent on participation in and/or compliance with services and/or treatment; instead, recipients must comply with a standard lease agreement
- A wide variety of agency and/or community-based supportive services are offered and made readily available based on recipient’s need and request; the program does not require participation in these services or any other services to remain in housing.
- Effective staffing structure to ensure person-centered service delivery.
- Program commits to assisting in housing location, as well as building relationships with landlords in order to permanently house eligible recipients.
- Use of assertive outreach to engage and offer housing and services to homeless or chronically homeless households who have experienced difficulty engaging in services.
- The continued effort to provide case management, and to hold housing for recipients, even if they leave their program housing for short periods.

The HFP will provide the following components:

- Crisis intervention and voluntary case management
- Recipient-directed assistance in accessing housing as well as agency and community resources and services
- Voluntary participation of recipients in programs and services
- Recipient participation in the decision-making process
- Recipients, landlords, 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 Housing First 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 percent is allocated towards program implementation, 10 percent is allocated towards administrative costs of the program.
- The program will house low-income Missourians (50 percent of area median income or below).
- Housing First 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 the program.

## **Submission Requirements**

Both a hard-copy application and an electronic application are required to be submitted.

1. Please send hard copy applications to:  
Missouri Housing Development Commission  
Community Initiatives Department  
920 Main, Suite 1400  
Kansas City, MO 64105
2. Please send electronic applications to:  
[ci.applications@mhdc.com](mailto:ci.applications@mhdc.com)

## **Contact Information**

If there are any questions, please contact:

Joselyn Pfliegier, Community Initiatives Coordinator

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