

OMHAS Criminal Justice Housing Program

Program Guidelines

Program Purpose

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency are partnering together to supplement local Homelessness Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing efforts for those with a criminal justice history. These efforts may include assisting individuals leaving a correctional facility with a quarantine order to slow the transmission of COVID-19 and to prevent evictions and/or housing loss due to a decline in income, wage reduction, job loss, health challenges, or similar circumstances.

Target Population

Individuals exiting or recently exited state prisons, county jails, halfway houses, and other community based correctional facilities who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. Eligible individuals are those who have exited one of the aforementioned correctional facilities within the preceding 180 days of their seeking assistance.

Eligible Grantees

OHFA will distribute these funds to Ohio's HUD-approved Continua of Care, including the eight large Continua and the Balance of State Continuum of Care. CoCs may designate an affiliated entity as a recipient on its behalf.

Grantee Responsibilities

In accordance with existing protocols, grantees will assess individual recipients, validate individual eligibility for funding, make payments to landlords for rent, etc. Grantees will administer and account for expenditures of grant funds and will maintain and submit regular reports on an ongoing basis on individual attributes, expenditure amounts, and outcomes to OHFA.

Eligible Uses of Funds

Funding may be used for Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Rehousing, Emergency Rental Assistance and Hotel/motel Assistance for isolation and quarantine for individuals exiting correctional facilities with a quarantine order.

Homelessness Prevention Rapid Rehousing (HPRR)

- Eligible uses of HPRR funds may include rental assistance payments, security deposits, landlord verification services, housing case management, etc.
- Eligible individuals to include people and households identified through the CoC's centralized intake process.
- The types of financial assistance that may be provided to eligible individuals with HPRR funds are as follows: (1) Rental Assistance (including arrears); (2) Security Deposits; (3) Utility Payments; and (4) Moving Cost Assistance. Grantee will determine how much rental assistance will be provided and the length of assistance, based on the individualized assessment of the recipient and potential negotiations with the landlord. No more than 180 days of rental assistance may be provided, including arrears.

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)

- Eligible uses of funds include rental assistance payments, landlord verification services, housing case management, etc.
- Eligible individuals will include those who are unable to pay their rent and are at imminent risk of eviction. Eligible individuals must have left a correctional facility as defined above within last 180 days.
- The types of financial assistance that may be provided to eligible individuals with ERA funds are as follows: (1) Rental Assistance (including arrears) and (2) Security Deposits. Grantee will determine how much rental assistance will be provided and the length of assistance, based on the individualized assessment of the recipient and potential negotiations with the landlord. No more than 180 days of rental assistance may be provided, including arrears.
- Rental payments must not exceed 120% of the HUD Fair Market Rent (FMR) for the CoC service area, unless approved by OHFA.
- HUD Fair Market Rents (FMR) are available here:
https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2020_code/select_Geography.odn

Hotel/Motel Assistance

- Eligible uses of funds include Hotel/Motel Assistance for a period of no more than 28 days for the purposes of enabling an exiting individual with quarantine order to socially isolate for at least 14 days following their release.

Available Funds

Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services has authorized the use of unrestricted Agency General Reserve Funds in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million for this program.

Funds will be distributed to the CoC Service Areas as follows:

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| Balance of State | \$601,881.78 |
| Cuyahoga | \$235,696.12 |
| Franklin | \$195,588.46 |
| Hamilton | \$160,386.74 |
| Lucas | \$75,303.88 |
| Mahoning | \$31,483.05 |
| Montgomery | \$83,157.19 |
| Stark | \$41,742.25 |
| Summit | \$74,760.53 |

Administrative Costs: Up to 8% of funds can be utilized by the grantee to cover administrative expenses associated with the program.

Reporting Requirements

Grantee must provide reports from Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) data, including information about recipients, i.e., date of birth, age, race, ethnicity, income, geographic origination information, family-status, members in household, etc. Data should be anonymized and de-identified prior to reporting through the use of a hashing process which will be provided to the CoC. The hashing process will provide a Unique Identifier in lieu of Personally Identifying Information (First name, last name, date of birth, social security number). Information should also include the type of correctional facility the individual was released from and their release date from the facility.

Reporting must also include details of the assistance provided, included hardship category, amount of assistance provided, date of contact, date of payment, form of assistance (i.e. rent payment, security deposit), and any outcomes related to payment.

Recipients of assistance must be identifiable as receiving this assistance, differentiated from other forms of assistance provided by each CoC.

Grant Terms

Grant agreements will begin on June 17, 2020 and will expire on June 30, 2021.

Revised as of June 19, 2020