

July 8, 2011

COHHIO UPDATES



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

COHHIO

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*For your convenience, you
may access previous
issues of COHHIO Updates
at:
http://www.cohhio.org/news_events.php*

Erica and I are postponing the HUD Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care Grant Start-Up Training that we had scheduled for July 26th. HUD has scheduled another training for that date that several people will be attending, so we are postponing our training. We will provide additional information about when the training has been re-scheduled once arrangements have been made.



“Ramping Down HPRP” Webinar

This webinar will present key issues and strategies for grantees to consider as they enter the final stages of HPRP, including:

- Planning a smooth and orderly closeout with subgrantees and for the grant overall;
- Messaging to subgrantees and program participants around the end of HPRP;
- Tapering off services and housing supports in a manner that ensure participants successfully transition off of HPRP and maintain housing; and
- Identifying HPRP-funded activities that have had the greatest impact and are a priority for continuing via other funding opportunities.

It will also include a report from a special guest—an HPRP grantee who has already thought through some of these issues in their community and is willing to share their experiences.

With the end of HPRP, grantees and subgrantees have the opportunity to consider the role of homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing in the local community. There are no simple answers to these questions, but the webinar will give participants concrete planning questions to take back to their community as the entire continuum of care prepares for change.

In case you missed the session yesterday, the second session is being held on Monday – I would encourage all HPRP grantees to listen to this webinar.

**Monday, July 11th from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/157508377>**

**Bill, Douglas, Emily, Erica, Raven, and I will be at
the National Alliance To End Homelessness
Conference from July 12 – 15, 2011.**



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HUD Releases New HPRP FAQs

HUD has posted 14 new or revised HPRP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Homelessness Resource Exchange (HRE). Most of these are not new policies or policy changes – in many cases, HUD has already communicated these policies to grantees, or they are simply clarifications of policy where HUD has received numerous questions. The intent of these changes is to provide more flexibility and guidance to grantees.

To view the full text of these FAQs, go to:

<http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewFaqByTopic&topicid=102#byTpc>. To view only recently added or revised questions, [click here](#) or search for HPRP questions with a "Date Posted (or Updated):" between 4/7/11 and the current date.

Policy Updates:

Brief summaries of a few of the key policy updates included as new FAQs are below. Be sure to read the complete FAQs for each topic area.

- **Requirements for grantee review of source documentation:** The regulations at 24 CFR 85.20(a) for state grantees and 85.20(b) for other grantees require that costs be eligible, actual, and incurred. While the only way for a grantee to establish that all costs are eligible, actual and incurred would be a 100% review of the documentation, a 100% review is not spelled out as a requirement. Therefore, grantees may develop a practice that gives them assurance that costs drawn were eligible, actual, and incurred. HUD cannot prescribe what the ideal process for meeting these requirements would be. Process and protocols must be designed by each grantee: some grantees are comfortable with assuming some risk and not reviewing everything, whereas others are not comfortable assuming ANY risk and therefore require a review of all documentation. [View full text of FAQ](#)
- **HPRP assistance to vacated units, for households comprised of individuals:**
 - *Vacant unit due to imprisonment:* HPRP assistance cannot be provided if a unit for which assistance is being provided is temporarily vacant due to a participant's incarceration. Assistance can be reinstated when the client returns to the unit (or, if they lose the housing, assistance can be provided to help them locate a new/different unit). [View full text of FAQ](#)
 - *Vacant unit due to hospitalization/treatment:* HPRP assistance can be provided if a unit is temporarily vacant due to a participant's hospitalization or stay in a treatment facility. It is up to the grantee to decide if a client will continue to receive assistance in this case. Grantees should establish a policy about whether and for how long to pay rent if a program participant is hospitalized while receiving rental assistance. All grantee policies must be applied consistently, and case managers should document all decisions made. [View full text of FAQ](#)
- **Treatment of Federal and State tax refunds:** Federal and state tax refunds must not be counted as additional sources of income when calculating annual income to determine a household's eligibility or need for assistance under HPRP. In addition, if Federal tax refunds received within the previous 12 months make up part of a household's cash assets, that part of the household's cash assets must not be counted among the household's financial resources when determining the household's eligibility or need for assistance under HPRP. This exclusion does not apply to Federal tax refunds received prior to the previous 12 months or state tax refunds. If those tax refunds make up part of a household's cash assets, they are treated the same as the other cash assets. See "Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010." [View full text of FAQ](#)
- **Reimbursing landlords for court costs if it prevents a client's eviction:** HUD will now allow payment of reasonable court costs/attorney fees to make the landlord "whole" as eligible HPRP expenses, under certain circumstances.

[View full text of FAQ](#) HUD has posted 14 new or revised HPRP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Homelessness Resource Exchange (HRE). Most of these are not new policies or policy changes – in many cases, HUD has already communicated these policies to grantees, or they are simply clarifications of policy where HUD has received numerous questions. The intent of these changes is to provide more flexibility and guidance to grantees.



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***COHHIO's
Mission Statement***

***COHHIO is a
statewide advocacy
group and service
providers network
dedicated to ending
homelessness and
ensuring that all
Ohioans have decent,
safe, fair, affordable
housing, especially
those with low-income
and special needs.***

HUD Releases New HPRP FAQs - Continued

Clarifications:

Brief summaries of a few of the clarifying FAQs are below. Be sure to read the [complete FAQ](#) for each topic area.

- **Clarification that applicants are not required to have income to be eligible for HPRP assistance.** Providing proof of earned income or the ability to sustain housing when HPRP assistance ends is not an eligibility requirement for HPRP. Although the HPRP Notice does emphasize that HPRP assistance is temporary, it also states that the intent of the assistance is to rapidly transition homeless or nearly homeless program participants to stability, either through their own means or through public assistance. Grantees and subgrantees may consider how a household's barriers may affect their ability to achieve stable housing (unsubsidized or subsidized) once the assistance ends. However, HUD cautions grantees against creating barriers for persons in need of this assistance, or putting in place criteria that are so strict that they cannot find households to serve.
- **Revision of requirements when requesting a "conflict of interest" waiver of the prohibition on provision of assistance in a property owned or managed by a grantee, subgrantee, or related entity:** HUD no longer requires an attorney to review the issue before submitting the waiver request to HUD, and also does not require that the grantee demonstrate that the use of the housing will not result in any personal or financial gain for employees of the organization that owns or manages the housing. This latter item is not because employees should profit greatly from a conflict of interest situation, but because employees who are paid by an organization that owns housing have an inherent benefit when that organization receives rent from a federal program. When requesting waivers, a grantee needs to discuss how they are managing and minimizing the inherent conflicts. The FAQs are also updated to clearly reflect the requirement that, other than a one-time payment of rent in arrears, the grantee will not provide HPRP rental assistance to any tenant who lives in a unit that receives a subsidy under any other program.
- **Cash Advances and Working Capital Advances:** HUD continues to receive questions about the regulations at 24 CFR part 84.22 and 85.21, related to different types of advances for HPRP. This FAQ takes language from the previously-released guidance, [Strategies for Accelerating Expenditure Rates](#), and puts it into an FAQ format.
- **Clarification about providing assistance when a lease has expired but the program participant has continued to rent the unit.**
- **Clarification that interest charges on a Line of Credit are not eligible HPRP costs.**
- **Clarification that performance outcomes from the HPRP program do not affect Continuum of Care scores.**
- **Clarification on treating HPRP assistance as income under the SSI program.**
- **Revision to clarify that HPRP funds may not be used to pay for pet deposit fees,** because fees may not be charged for service animals that are required for a member of the household due to a disability (revised and posted as of 4/7/11).





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Managing Scattered Site Rental Programs. NeighborWorks America is offering the webinar on Thursday, July 14, 2011, from 2:00-3:30 PM. Overview: In order to assist organizations considering a scattered site rental program, they are offering a new, online resource called Scattered Site Rental Toolkit: Business Planning for Development & Management, available at StableCommunities.org. The Toolkit covers Goals, Neighborhood, People, Product, Financing and Management, with case studies of nonprofits operating successful programs, and downloadable worksheets and sample policies, procedures and forms. To learn more and to register for the webinar, go to https://nw.webex.com/mw0306ld/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=nw&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc0805ld%2Fe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Dnw%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D130036207%26UID%3D0%26Host%3D8e56bbee331e2718162f%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2

The **Criminal Justice and Mental Health Consensus Project** is seeking application from jurisdictions interested in piloting a new mental health court curriculum in late fall, 2011. Through the pilot process, the selected sites will learn how to design and implement a mental health court in their jurisdiction and will be formally recognized, if interested, as the pilot sites in future descriptions of the curriculum project. For more information and to download the application go to: <http://councilofstategovernmentsjusticecenter.createsend5.com/t/r//jkuutid/uitjurkir/i/>

PathStone is a private, not-for-profit regional community development and human service organization providing services to farmworkers, low-income families and economically depressed communities. Services include: farmworker emergency housing, farmworker training/employment/vocational rehabilitation services, emergency food and shelter, domestic violence services, etc. They have several communities in Ohio that they work with, to learn more about the services they offer in Ohio, please go to: <http://www.pathstone.org/services-by-location/ohio/>

In The News

- Photo competition to raise awareness about rural poverty and homelessness - <http://www.timesjournal.com/articles/2011/06/28/community/doc4e09bc4c08ef5017476209.txt>
- State okays funds to tear down St. Joe's and develop 30 units of housing for veterans - <http://morningjournal.com/articles/2011/06/30/news/mj4742477.txt>
- Counseling offers often unheeded, banks say - http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/06/26/counseling-offers-often-unheeded-banks-say.html?sid=101



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www.cohhio.org

<http://twitter.com/COHHIO>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coalition-On-Homelessness-and-Housing-in-Ohio/111253932244739>

Protecting the Fair Housing Rights of Women Workshop

WHEN: July 19, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: State Library of Ohio, 274 East First Avenue, in Columbus.

The obstacles women face are often created by a confluence of discrimination based on gender, race, family form, sexuality, citizenship status, and class. In this workshop, various speakers will assess the many ways women are injured by housing discrimination and explore examples of methods to address the particular issues that women face because of unfair housing practices and policies.

The agenda includes the following topics:

- A Basic Overview of Fair Housing Law
- Sexual Harassment and Sex-Based Housing Discrimination
- Breaking the Silence: Housing Discrimination against Abused Women

Women

- Familial Status: Protection for Mothers with Children and Pregnant Women

Pregnant Women

- Frail Elderly and Women with Disabilities' Right to Reasonable Accommodations and Modifications
- Housing Challenges for New Americans

Presentations will be made by Marilyn Tobocman, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Elizabeth Brown, HOME, Cincinnati, OH; Kris Keniray, Fair Housing Contact Service and Meredith Lobritz Watts, Community Legal Aid; Vince Curry, Fair Housing Advocates Association, Akron, OH ; Ohio Latino Affairs Commission; Ronnell Tomlinson, Ohio Civil Rights Commission and others.

There is no cost to attend the workshop. Registration is limited to 60 participants. The registration deadline is July 15, 2011.

To register, **COMPETE THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM** and submit it to Joyce Hill by e-mail at Joyce.Hill@development.ohio.gov, fax at (614) 752-4575 or mail to:

Joyce A. Hill, Civil Rights Specialist
Ohio Department of Development
Office of Housing and Community Partnerships
77 South High Street, 24th Floor
P.O. Box 1001
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

Questions regarding the training should be directed to Ms. Hill by telephone at (614) 466-2285 or by e-mail at Joyce.Hill@development.ohio.gov.



Department of
Development

Office of Housing and Community Partnerships

Protecting the Fair Housing Rights of Women

_____ I will attend the Protecting the Fair Housing Rights of Women Workshop on July 19, 2011.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Agency: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Telephone: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

If an auxiliary aid is needed due to a disability (interpreter, Braille or taped material, assistive listening device, other), please specify type: _____

Workshop Registration Submission Instructions

Submit, via mail, e-mail or fax, a completed registration form by **July 15, 2011**, to:

Joyce A. Hill, Civil Rights Specialist
Ohio Department of Development
Office of Housing and Community Partnerships
77 South High Street, 24th Floor
P.O. Box 1001
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001

E-Mail: Joyce.Hill@development.ohio.gov
Fax: (614) 752-4575