

Multnomah County

Draft 4 - 19 - 05

Housing Services

The goal of the Housing Service Program is to remove barriers and create permanent, accessible, safe housing for people with disabilities, regardless of age. The Program also provides emergency home repair for very low-income homeowners that address essential maintenance projects that allow the neighborhood to remain intact, increase the supply of affordable, decent, accessible housing units in East Multnomah County, to connect homeless individuals and families with services in order to obtain decent, stable housing, and fund projects that may acquire and rehabilitate units of housing that will be affordable at or below the median family income. The Program also seeks to enhance programs that will connect services into the operation and management of the housing project.

PROGRAM NEEDS

Lack of affordable housing and maintaining existing housing has been identified as one of the top economic issues in this area. Additionally, there is an on-going shortage of affordable, accessible housing for low-income people with disabilities, including seniors.

People who own some of the existing housing in Multnomah County are the working poor or have low, fixed incomes. Often they are unable to afford needed repairs, which over time can make their home unsafe and/or unhealthy for the occupants.

Oregon has one of the largest senior populations in the country. Lack of suitable housing could compel seniors and those with disabilities into institutional living that could diminish both the quality and length of their lives. Addressing housing rehabilitation for accessibility and/or safety reaches out to persons with special needs, enabling them to live in dignity and independence.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Housing Services programs improve the quality and quantity of affordable housing for low and moderate-income people and provides appropriate housing opportunities for special needs households.

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PROGRAM TOOLS

- Markets the program with appropriate social service agencies serving those in the unincorporated areas of Multnomah County and with the local media.
- Facilitates the development of low-income rental units, utilizing a public/private partnership approach.
- Provides grants to homeowners and renters to retrofit with accessibility features and rehabilitate their homes allowing them to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalization.
- Encourages owners to maintain the accessible features for future tenants.

PROGRAM SELECTION

Activities are rated by a stakeholder advisory panel on a competitive basis according to specific selection criteria designed to solicit local strategies. Staff review and rate project proposals for use by that panel based on the needs and policies identified in the plan.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Low and moderate-income persons with disabilities or who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- Lack of available funds in the proportion to those eligible for services who need services
- Social Services cutbacks

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Unlimited Choices Inc.

Mend-a-Home program – home repair and rehab for low-income homeowners

Adapt-a-Home program – accessible housing for low-income people

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with disabilities

Human Solutions, Inc.

Acquisition and rehabilitation of obsolete poorly functioning units to transform them into energy-efficient, affordable housing.

COMPLEMENTARY LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

Programs align with 10-Year Plan to end Homelessness by focusing on keeping people housed through improving and maintaining existing affordable housing stock. In addition, through the countywide housing consortium, separate jurisdictions combine resources to jointly achieve mutual projects and goals.

GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREAS (INCLUDING AREAS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND/OR RACIAL/MINORITY CONCENTRATION)

East Multnomah County

MONITORING

Site visits are carried out throughout the program year to gather information about how programs are delivered and how each project ensures people were income qualified and that all program components are in compliance with HUD requirements.

OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

Information and program outcomes to follow.

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Neighborhood Revitalization

The goal of the Neighborhood Revitalization program is to increase the safety and livability of neighborhoods in low to moderate-income areas in East Multnomah County.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION NEEDS

The small cities of East Multnomah County recognize the importance of continued enhancement to city community centers, parks, and landscapes in order to continue the stabilization and revitalization efforts of low-income neighborhoods. A large majority of citizens living in this area qualify at the low to moderate income level.

In the City of Wood Village, over 65% of households live in apartments, duplexes, condominiums, or mobile homes. Many of these residences do not have recreation equipment for children to play on or facilities for adults to gather and socialize. Wood Village has only one park that is used by many of the residents as well as non-residents from neighboring communities. Portions of the park are ADA accessible but the majority of areas are not. The Neighborhood Revitalization program is able to improve access to quality public and private facilities and services as well as revitalization of deteriorating neighborhoods.

The Old Town area in the City of Fairview provides most of the affordable single-family housing as well as the largest public housing facilities in the city. The majority of the citizens who are at the low to moderate income level reside in this area and a recent demographic analysis found that the Old Town area is populated by families with young children. The City is committed to maintain the affordability of the housing in this neighborhood with increased community amenities making it a livable, vital part of the entire city. The Community Center in the Old Town neighborhood of Fairview is a local facility that is convenient for a wide variety of meetings and community needs. A plaza area, construction of a street, additional parking, ADA wheelchair ramps, lighting and landscaping are some amenities that the Neighborhood Revitalization program is able to provide.

The Neighborhood Revitalization program provides opportunity for improving the safety and livability of neighborhoods to create a more suitable living environment as well as restoring and preserving properties of special historic and aesthetic value.

The program helps overcome a lack of accessibility in public and private facilities, lack of park and play areas in community, and community facilities run down and in disrepair

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program addresses a lack of physical public facilities that results in unsafe or undesirable conditions in an identifiable neighborhood area or small city. This includes substandard streets, public facilities, or utilities in predominately low to moderate-income areas.

PROGRAM TOOLS

- Coordinate efforts and increase opportunities to develop suitable living environment in communities.
- Seek community involvement.
- Identify and acknowledge local needs and move ahead to address issues.
- Give technical assistance to implement plan.

PROGRAM SELECTION

Activities are rated by a stakeholder advisory panel on a competitive basis according to specific selection criteria designed to solicit local strategies. Staff review and rate project proposals for use by that panel based on the needs and policies identified in the plan.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Programs sponsors must provide services in East Multnomah County neighborhoods where residents are principally at low and moderate income level and be non-profit organizations.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

Lack of available funds in the proportion to those eligible for services who need services.

PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Projects are funded directly through the local cities in East Multnomah County.

COMPLEMENTARY LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

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The importance of developing and maintaining viable urban communities has been acknowledged on a national, regional and local area. Investment in revitalizing neighborhoods helps to create a sense of place and pride in community, promotes economic development, and reduces crime.

In addition, through the countywide housing consortium, separate jurisdictions combine resources to jointly achieve mutual projects and goals.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS (INCLUDING AREAS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND/OR RACIAL/MINORITY CONCENTRATION)

Primarily East Multnomah County.

MONITORING

Site visits are carried out throughout the program year to gather information about how programs are delivered and how each project ensures people were income qualified and that all program components are in compliance with HUD requirements.

OUTCOMES AND MEASURES

Information and program outcomes to follow.

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Pulbic Service

The goal of Public Services is to provide essential social or health services for low and moderate-income persons not currently being served by other sources

PUBLIC SERVICES NEEDS

Beneficiaries of these public services are low-income people who are victims of housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, family status, marital status, or source of income. There has been an increase in requests from persons with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations from their housing provider to obtain or retain housing. Additionally, there is a lack of social and health services for those who are homeless or in risk of homelessness.

The program helps overcome, housing discrimination, fair housing issues, unlawful eviction, lack of legal counsel, lack of housing, childcare needs, and the social or health services needs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program supports an emergency services network designed to address basic needs of people in crisis, assisting them to stabilize and become self-sufficient. This may include job skills training, childcare, health services, housing, recreation, drug abuse recovery, education, counseling, and services related to crime prevention and energy conservation.

PROGRAM TOOLS

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- Link residents with appropriate community services while assisting homeless persons to obtain stable affordable housing
- Promote public services dealing with employment
- Assist with programs that provide education and job training skills
- Provide fair housing education, outreach, and enforcement
- Provide housing counseling and habitability services to low-income and special needs households to prevent homelessness
- Promote citizen training/education programs include home protection, home ownership, and how to be involved in public decision processes
- Provide childcare services
- Provide basic health and dental maintenance services
- Provide support services to persons with physical and mental disabilities

PROGRAM SELECTION

Activities are rated by a stakeholder advisory panel on a competitive basis according to specific selection criteria designed to solicit local strategies. Staff review and rate project proposals for use by that panel based on the needs and policies identified in the plan.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Project sponsors must serve low to moderate-income families and individuals in east Multnomah County in need health or social services and be non-profit organizations.

POTENTIAL BARRIERS

- Lack of available funds in the proportion to those eligible for services who need services
- Social Services cutbacks
- Reaching those people who do not actively seek out services because of language barriers or accessibility issues.

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PARTNER AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Legal Aid Services of Oregon

Provides paralegal advice and attorney assistance to low-income clients with housing discrimination complaints as well as displacement, eviction, unlawful exclusions and habitability needs. Clients are provided with information and referral, individual representation, as well as some community education and outreach.

Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Provides fair housing services, including outreach, education, and enforcement to east Multnomah County. They coordinate outreach, training, and enforcements with Legal Aid Services of Oregon and other agencies.

HUMAN SOLUTIONS INC.

Provides transitional housing services and childcare while providing skill building training.

COMPLEMENTARY LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

Low-income households have rights to access housing and be treated with dignity and respect. When those rights are violated, the importance of having the legal support necessary to defend themselves is critical to the community as a whole. This has been acknowledged on a national, regional and local area basis.

In addition, through the countywide housing consortium, separate jurisdictions combine resources to jointly achieve mutual projects and goals.

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