

Idaho Housing First Program Subgrant Description

Purpose: The Department of Health and Welfare is seeking to identify community-based nonprofit and government agencies that show the interest, ability and financial stability to implement and operate a Housing First program for homeless families with children in Idaho. The Department will award up to \$260,000 per year to the successful agency. Awards may be made to multiple agencies. Each subgrant will be awarded for up to a 3-year period. Continuation and/or expansion of Housing First subgrants will be dependent on contractor performance and the availability of funding. Funding for this program comes from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant.

Background: Housing First is a relatively recent innovation in human service programs and social policy regarding treatment of the homeless and is an alternative to a system of emergency shelter/transitional housing progressions. Housing First approaches are based on the concept that a homeless family's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing, and that other issues that may affect the household can and should be addressed once housing is obtained. This model also provides wraparound case management services to the participants. This case management approach provides stability for homeless families, thus increasing their likelihood of success, while providing for accountability and promoting self-sufficiency. Case management activities include, but are not limited to: developing self sufficiency plans in partnership with families; identifying additional resources as needed; monitoring progress through regular and meaningful contact; providing problem resolution and supportive services to help families attain and maintain successful employment.

This Housing First project will help homeless families with children attain: shelter and immediate shelter necessities; resources for those families to achieve self sufficiency; the ability to maintain their housing independently. Upon successful completion of the time limited program, Housing First project families will have obtained and maintained housing and sustainable employment that is essential in the continuation of the families' self sufficiency.

Application Requirements: All successful applicants will meet the following minimum requirements by describing their ability:

- to demonstrate a proven history of successfully implementing and operating an Housing First program by providing data demonstrating their program's effectiveness;
- to provide a list of partners who have a role in the Housing First program;
- to provide ***Maintenance of Effort**** (MOE) dollars;
- to describe the method that will be used to verify TANF eligibility for the families enrolled in the Housing First program.

Maintenance of Effort (MOE): The TANF block grant program has an annual cost-sharing requirement, referred to as "**maintenance of effort**," or "**MOE**." Every fiscal year each State must spend a certain minimum amount of its own money to help eligible families in ways that are consistent with the purposes of the TANF program. Successful agencies will describe those services they already provide (which are not federally-funded) which meet the MOE requirements and the amount of funds that will be used to finance those services each year.

Framework for Determining What Counts: For expenditures to count toward MOE, the expenditure must be a **qualified state expenditure**. Such expenditures must:

- be for an allowable purpose;
- be with respect to an eligible family;
- not otherwise excludable;
- be private or public non-federal funds that are not being utilized as a match for any other federal funding source.

Allowable Purposes: The federal law lists five allowable purposes for which expenditures can count toward MOE requirements: cash assistance; child care assistance; educational activities designed to increase self-sufficiency, job training and work; or any other use of funds reasonably calculated to accomplish one of the four TANF purposes (see below).

TANF Purposes: Any other use of funds reasonably calculated to accomplish the purposes of the TANF block grant. The purpose language of TANF [42 U.S.C. '601(a)] says that "the purpose of this part is to increase the flexibility of States in operating a program designed to:

- (1) provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives;
- (2) end the dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- (3) prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- (4) encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Thus, any expenditure "reasonably calculated" to accomplish one or more of the above four purposes can be countable; keep in mind, however, that the expenditure must be for a member of an eligible family.

Idaho Housing First Program

Subgrant Application

Name of Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Contact Person:

Phone Number:

Amount Requested:

Total Project Budget:

What is your organization's mission?

Please provide the following information and attach to your application:

- The Structure of your organization:
 - A description of the services your organization provides, including the type of agency (non-profit, faith-based, not-for-profit, etc).
 - Qualifications of the individuals who will be involved in the project;
 - What your organization does
- Describe your agency's activities and funding that meet MOE requirements (MOE must be equal to or greater than the amount requested in this application).
- Describe your agency's history of successfully implementing and operating a Housing First program;
- Budget for this project
- Letters of support from partners substantiating your partnerships.
- Letters of support substantiating your agency's proven track record with Housing First programs.

Information about Your Proposal:

- Describe the project you intend to implement with this funding.
- Describe your target population and how you will verify eligibility for the program.
- Describe how you will effectively work with families in order to promote self reliance through a Housing First methodology.
- Describe how you will assist families in accessing resources to obtain and maintain employment.
- Describe your case management process to be implemented for families participating in the Housing First program.
- Describe your proposed service delivery area, and any plans for expansion, if applicable.
- Describe the numbers of families to be served each year.
- Describe the anticipated average cost per family.
- Describe your definition of successful completion of the program and the anticipated outcomes.
- Describe any planned activities to enhance the likelihood of long-term success for families.
- Describe any planned activities to track the effectiveness of the Housing First for families that successfully complete the program.