

Ohio | Department of Developmental Disabilities

John R. Kasich, Governor
John L. Martin, Director

Memorandum

To: County Board of DD Superintendents
County Board SSA Directors
County Housing Corporation Directors
Mark Davis, Ohio Provider Resource Association
Pete VanRunkle, Ohio Healthcare Association
Kathy Phillips, Ohio Waiver Network
Bridget Gargan, Ohio Association of County Boards of DD
Karla Rinto, APSI
Carolyn Knight, DD Council
DC Superintendents

From: Ernie Fischer, Capital Housing Administrator
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Date: September 2, 2015

Re: DODD Rental Assistance Program

The Department of Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the creation of a new Rental Assistance Program (RAP) as part of its FY 2016-2017 Biennium Budget. This project will fund up to \$750,000 in rental assistance in each of the next two years. This program is designed to provide assistance to eligible individuals who receive Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers and are moving from a state operated Developmental Center (DC) or a private or county operated ICF/IID into smaller, community homes of their choosing. The intent of this program is to provide rental assistance until the individual becomes eligible for any other local, state or federal rental assistance funding. The following is an outline of the program.

I. Eligibility

- a. An Individual (long-term resident only) moves from a DC to a community setting and is enrolled on a waiver
- b. An individual living in a non-DC ICF/IID who leaves the ICF and is enrolled on a waiver.
- c. Demonstrate need
 - i. Rents and utilities exceed 30% of individual's adjusted gross income
 - ii. HUD rent voucher not available - must document application and denial or waiting list
- d. Must access HOME CHOICE funding
- e. Individual must have a lease or rental agreement with the landlord

II. Scope of availability

- a. May be used in homes previously funded with DODD Community Capital Assistance (purchase and/or renovation)
- b. Landlord may be not-for-profit or for profit entity
- c. May be in a licensed or non-licensed setting
- d. Available to all counties – must be used as a documented last resort and may not supplant county funds being used for rental assistance. DODD makes determination as to eligible counties.
- e. Funding to be determined as applications are received.
- f. Subject to availability of funds as determined by the department

III. Responsibilities of DODD

- a. Provide education and training on new program
- b. Establish assistance parameters (Fair Market Rent, assistance formula)
- c. Distribute rental assistance application to be used by county boards
- d. Review, approve applications, notify counties
- e. Develop payment system
- f. Develop home inspection criteria and process
- g. Provide ongoing technical assistance

IV. Responsibilities of County Board and/or Housing Corporation

- a. Determine individual meets eligibility criteria
- b. Complete and submit application with/for individual
- c. Assist individual in finding housing – works with potential landlords
- d. Conduct initial inspection of house
- e. Coordinate rent payments with landlord
- f. Track rent payments – submit documentation as required by DODD
- g. Maintain annual eligibility
- h. Conduct annual inspections of house

A detailed process for implementation is currently being developed and will be shared with counties via trainings, presentations, webinars and other methods in the coming weeks. Please be looking for this information.

This is an exciting new program that will provide additional resources to those individuals moving to homes in their community. We look forward to working with you to make this successful for persons receiving waiver services. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ernie.fischer@dodd.ohio.gov or call at (614) 752-3013.