



# Oregon Housing and Community Services

North Mall Office Building, 725 Summer St NE Suite B, Salem OR 97301-1266 - (503) 986-2000

## Emergency Housing Account

(Program Factsheet)

For more Information:

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Last Update: June 2, 2009

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### Do you need Emergency Housing?

To find out if you qualify for this program, please contact your local community action agency at <http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov/OHCS/CRD/CSS/docs/HomelessReferralList.pdf>.

### Program Overview

The Emergency Housing Account Program was created in 1991 to assist persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, targeting those who are elderly (65 and older), disabled, farm workers, or Native Americans. Designated lead agencies coordinate the use of these funds through an inclusive community planning process.

### Eligibility Requirements

The program is designed to provide assistance to low- and very-low-income homeless persons or those at risk of becoming homeless. Client eligibility may not be based on residency within a designated service area or on legal status.

The following services are eligible under this program:

- emergency shelter and attendant services.
- transitional housing services designed to assist persons make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing and economic independence.
- supportive services that enable persons to continue living in their own homes or provide in-home services for areas where no suitable programs exist.
- emergency payment of mortgage payments, rents, or utilities.
- case management.

Funds granted under this program may not be used to replace existing funds, but may be used to supplement existing funds or create new programs.

Administrative costs for the program are limited to 10 percent of each local agency's funding award. Each local agency is required to maintain records that document the situation of clients receiving services, client signatures, referral information of clients to other services designed to meet longer term needs, and receipt and dispersal of all funds. Providers must provide OHCS

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with an annual audit of program and fiscal transactions within 180 days of the close of the agency's fiscal year. Monitoring may include, but is not limited to, inspection of client files, program records, fiscal records and facilities used for providing services.

### Program Requirements for Lead Agencies

OHCS distributes funds to designated lead agencies through a formula based on the number of homeless and at-risk population in each geographic region. The lead agencies are responsible for coordinating and establishing area plans for use of the funds. Local service providers, interest groups, and citizens must be allowed the opportunity to participate in the plan. Community action agencies have first refusal rights for the funds. Any funds remaining are distributed through a request for qualification procedure.

### For More Information

To talk with someone about resources and services in your local area or county, contact your **Local Community Action Agency** (<http://www.caporegon.org/members.htm>).

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OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.

