

HOME Tenant-Based Rental Housing Assistance Program (HTBA)

For More Information
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Program Overview:

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) contracts with various public service agencies to administer the HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (HTBA) program. Public service agencies include housing authorities, community action agencies, and local partnership programs, which typically consist of a partnership between a local housing authority and a community action agency.

The program offers rental assistance in six-month or one-year terms to very-low-income tenants for the payment of housing costs and a refundable security deposit. The public service agency, tenant, and the landlord create a rental assistance agreement. The public service agency pays the landlord directly on behalf of the tenant. OHCS allocates up to 20 percent of the annual HOME Program grant to tenant-based rental assistance activities.

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify, a household consisting of an individual or group of individuals must be very low income, i.e., cannot have a total gross household income from all sources that exceeds 50 percent of the area median income for that household size. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) establishes the rental amounts. Households must pay a portion of the rent based on its income. The minimum household contribution for housing costs is \$10.

Tenants can choose their own housing, provided the rental unit meets basic program requirements, including federal housing quality standards. Households can still receive rental assistance if they move.

Program Requirements:

Households in the HOME TBA program must participate in a self-sufficiency program that helps the household to become employed. A plan is developed and agreed upon by the tenant and the public service agency based on an assessment of the household's needs. If the tenant does not follow the plan, the rental assistance will end.

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The HOME Program grant requires a 25 percent match of non-federal funds. Public service agencies are responsible for documenting and reporting match expenditures to OHCS. These expenditures may include direct housing costs or supportive services for self-sufficiency activities provided to HOME TBA participants during the term of assistance. Tenant contributions to rent are not part of the match calculation.

For More Information:

To talk with someone about resources and services in your local area or county, contact your **local community action agency** at <http://www.caporegon.org/members.htm>.