

## Low Income Rental Assistance

(Program Factsheet)

### For More Information

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### Are you low income and need rental assistance?

To find housing and/or shelters in your area, contact a **Local Community Action Agency** (<http://www.cado-oregon.org/members.htm>).

### Program Overview

The Low Income Rental Housing Assistance Program is designed to assist very-low-income households by providing short term rental assistance. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) administers the program through local public service agencies, which consist of a housing authority or a community action agency.

### 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 (not including income from the employment of children under the age of 18) that exceeds 50 percent of the area median income for that household size. A qualifying household is eligible to receive a Low Income Rental Housing Fund grant covering up to six months of rental housing expenses.

### Program Requirements

Households needing assistance should contact their local public service agency. The Low Income Rental Housing Fund provides grants primarily to very-low-income households in danger of losing their rental units due to involuntary hardship (e.g., medical problems, natural disaster, domestic violence, or layoff), or to households who are homeless and can benefit from local community resources aimed at transitioning the household to self-sufficiency during the grant period (e.g., job training, counseling, physical therapy, or rehabilitation). Preference is granted to households not eligible for other rental assistance, or who are eligible but unlikely to receive assistance soon. A grant may cover rent payments for up to six months plus any reasonable refundable deposits.

Housing authorities, domestic violence shelters, job training programs, community action, or other human service agencies provide referrals to the public service agencies in their service area for households who might be eligible. These referrals must be for very-low-income households with whom the human service agencies are familiar, or whom landlords or other concerned citizens have brought to the attention of the agencies. The public service agencies evaluate the applications and award grants as funding is available.

Local public service agencies may make the Low Income Rental Housing Fund rental assistance payments for any privately-owned rental property that meets applicable health and safety standards for habitability.

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# Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

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

For more program information, contact Mary Gentry, Program Coordinator, at 503.986.2117 or by E-mail: [Mary.Gentry@hcs.state.or.us](mailto:Mary.Gentry@hcs.state.or.us).

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.



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