

State Homeless Assistance

(Program Factsheet)

For More Information

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Are you homeless or at risk of being homeless?

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 State Homeless Assistance Program was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1987. The program is designed to fund emergency shelter and auxiliary services directly related to emergency shelters. Eligible activities may include nutritional assistance, personal hygiene, and referral. The program is administered at the local level by community agencies which are encouraged to assist participants to access other services to meet longer term needs whenever possible.

The State Homeless Assistance Program funds a variety of shelter activities including:

- shelter conversion or rehabilitation (repair).
- operational costs of shelters (rent, utilities, insurance, furnishings and supplies).
- counseling (drug/alcohol abuse, job search, housing search, victims of domestic violence support groups and other necessary support needs as part of shelter operations).
- education and salaries for those individuals who perform these critical activities in shelters.

The State Homeless Assistance Program funds can also be used as a match for federal dollars.

Program Requirements for Lead Agencies

Oregon Housing and Community Services (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 programs have first refusal rights for the funds. Any funds remaining are distributed through a request for qualification procedure.

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 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.

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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>).

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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.



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