

IHFA Housing Roundtable Updates

The following is a summary document with updates on IHFA's affordable housing activities across Idaho.

Homelessness

CoC Competition:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making \$2.656 billion in FY 2021 Continuum of Care Program (CoC) competitive funding available to homeless services organizations across the country for supportive services and housing programs for people experiencing homelessness. **Read HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**

The Continuum of Care Program is the largest source of federal grant funding for homeless services and housing programs serving people experiencing homelessness. By statute, CoC Program grants must be awarded through an annual NOFO to which nearly 400 Continuum of Care communities apply for grants for approximately 7,000 homeless services projects.

Due to COVID-19, HUD was granted authority to renew grants without a NOFO in FY 2020. Therefore, this NOFO will be the first CoC Program NOFO since the COVID-19 pandemic.

For 2021, the Idaho Balance of State CoC's estimated allocation (annual renewal demand) from HUD is \$3,370,859. Local competition opened on September 3, 2021 and accepted applications through October 11, 2021. For more information, please refer to IHFA's Homelessness [webpage](#).

COVID Response:

IHFA continues to administer approximately \$15 million of COVID relief funds through the ESG program. These funds are being used by agencies across Idaho to help prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID. Funding allocations and spending are continuously monitored and adjusted as needed.

ESG:

The Emergency Shelter Grants program was established by the Homeless Housing Act of 1986 in response to the growing issue of homelessness in the United States. In 1987, the program was incorporated into Title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11371-11378), now known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards these funds to the State of Idaho. The Governor of Idaho has designated Idaho Housing and Finance Association to administer ESG funds on behalf of the State.

Agencies in Idaho were given an opportunity to apply for this funding from June 14, 2021 through July 30, 2021. Awards were announced August 31, 2021 and grants will begin October 1, 2021. ESG program funding can be used for homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing and shelters. For more information, please see IHFA's ESG [webpage](#).

HOPWA: IHFA is seeking agencies interested in administering the Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) program in Southern and Eastern Idaho.

Information about any of these programs can be found [here](#), or by contacting SNAP@IHFA.org.

Project Finance

For an updated list of income-based or subsidized properties across Idaho within IHFA's Compliance portfolio look at the "Affordable Projects" in each region, [here](#).

Also, for a current report on the impact of IHFA's Collateral Support Program for small businesses, click [here](#).

Rental Assistance

In March 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law, which appropriated \$5 billion for new incremental Emergency Housing Vouchers. HUD awarded IHFA 114 of these Emergency Housing Vouchers earlier this year. The vouchers are targeted to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or who were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having a high risk of housing instability. The vouchers are administered through a collaboration with local CoC Access Points and are referral only, meaning applicants must apply through the Access point in each region and may not apply directly to IHFA. These vouchers are in addition to the 3,909 vouchers IHFA administers, which includes our regular Housing Choice Voucher program, Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and Mainstream vouchers. IHFA's waiting lists are open in all four branch offices.

The Home Partnership Foundation

Avenues for Hope: 2021 registration will be open mid-September through November 5th for the 11th annual campaign via www.avenuesforhope.org. The 2021 campaign will be held December 9-31. We are seeking new participating nonprofits and school districts that provide housing and/or supportive services. New campaign sponsors are also needed to help fund the \$300,000+ prize and match fund. We'll have an aggressive goal to raise more than our record-breaking campaign last year that brought in nearly \$2.6M. 2020 funds supported 78 housing nonprofits and school districts throughout Idaho. Please direct any questions to Deanna Ward at deannaw@ihfa.org or 208-331-4756.

Fair Housing

IHFA created and distributed fair housing education and outreach materials for landlords, renters, realtors, housing advocates, managers, owners, and other stakeholders. Visit IHFA's [Fair Housing page](#) to access videos and free print materials. The Idaho Fair Housing Forum will host a discussion October 20th from 10am to 11am MDT with statewide partners and stakeholders to explore current trends in HUD's focus and potential areas of collaboration.

COVID-19

Stay up to date on IHFA's COVID-19 response programs through our [COVID-19 page](#). Of most relevance may be IHFA's [Housing Preservation Program \(HPP\)](#), which supports renters experiencing a financial hardship due to the pandemic. HPP offers emergency rent and utility assistance to renters earning less

than 80% of the area median income for a period of up to 15 months. Both retroactive and prospective assistance is available. A program flyer and other promotional material are available for distribution and can be accessed [here](#).