

## **Public Hearing**

### **Rhode Island Housing**

### **Announces American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Weatherization Assistance Program Funding For Multi-family Housing**

#### **Application Deadline:**

**Rhode Island Housing is conducting a competitive funding round for Weatherization Assistance under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Funds are available for existing multi-family housing developments (developments of five or more units) occupied by low-income residents. Approximately \$6 million in funding is available for energy retrofits for affordable multi-family housing developments with long-term (minimum of 15 years) use restrictions. These funds provide a unique opportunity to assist low-income families paying high energy costs and to reduce energy consumption on high energy use properties.**

**The benefits from weatherization funding must be targeted to low-income residents who pay for utility and other energy-related expenses. Tenants who reside in weatherized units cannot be subject to rent increases unless it can be demonstrated that the increases are not a direct result of such improvements.**

## **Highest funding priorities include:**

- **Assistance to developments occupied by low-income elderly persons**
- **Assistance to developments occupied by low-income persons with disabilities**
- **Assistance to developments occupied by low-income families with children**
- **Developments in which tenants pay their own utilities**
- **High residential energy users and/or households with a high energy burden**
- **Developments in which tenants do not pay their own utilities, but where improvements are documented to benefit tenants**
- **Developments which will leverage additional resources that address energy efficiency and other critical capital improvements**
- **Appropriate long term improvements that will reduce energy-related costs for tenants and high residential energy users.**

**\*Consideration will also be given to the geographic distribution of projects.**

## **Eligibility:**

**Weatherization and retrofit of the following multi-family properties:  
(all applications must include weatherization of a minimum of 5 units**

per development)

- A) Project-based Section 8 Assisted Housing, Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly, Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities; and**
- B) Public housing; and**
- C) Low-income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) properties; and**
- D) Other multi-family developments that meet the State's definition of low and moderate income housing per RIGL45-53.**

**To be eligible for weatherization assistance, a unit must be occupied by a family whose income does not exceed 60% of Rhode Island's median income. At least 66% of the units in a multi-family development must be occupied by families who within fall this income category. Developments must meet State Building and Fire Code requirements, HUD Section 8 Housing Quality Standards, State and Federal Lead Paint regulations and asbestos mitigation rules. Properties must remain affordable for a minimum of fifteen (15) years following completion of weatherization improvements.**

**Income Guidelines:**

**Size of Household Maximum Income**

**1 \$25,971**

**2 \$33,962**

**3 \$41,953**

**4 \$49,945**

**5 \$57,936**

**6 \$65,927**

**7 \$67,426**

**8 \$68,924**

**9 \$70,422**

**10 \$71,920**

**11 \$73,419**

**12 \$74,916**

**Eligible Activities:**

**Weatherization measures will differ for each unit and property based on various factors but the following measures are eligible activities:**

- Insulation**
- Air Sealing**
- Windows**
- Heating and Cooling**
- Water Heaters**
- Electrical Appliances and Weatherization Base Load Measures**
- Other energy measures as defined by a DOE-approved advanced energy audit computer program**

**The average cost per unit is \$6,500.00 which includes the cost of an energy audit and the installation of weatherization materials for energy improvements and to abate energy-related health and safety**

**hazards.**

**Properties constructed prior to 1978 must meet lead safe requirements and have source(s) of funding to address any lead issues. Department of Energy funds may be used to minimize the potential hazard associated with the specific painted surfaces that workers are directly disturbing in the course of installing an energy efficiency measure, but Department of Energy funds may not otherwise be used for abatement, stabilization, or control of the lead-based paint hazard in the residence.**

**Work completed under the Program must conform to implementing regulations under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 including but not limited to:**

- Wage Rate Requirements**
- Buy American Requirements (where applicable)**
- OMB 1512 Reporting Requirements**

**Weatherization work must be performed by Rhode Island Housing or OER approved Weatherization Contractors.**

### **Energy Audit Procedures**

**Eligible projects selected will undergo an energy audit conducted by certified auditors, per program requirements, to determine the most effective energy treatments for a development. Audit procedures will**

be conducted according to Department of Energy requirements and industry standards.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- A separate application is required for each development requesting weatherization assistance.
- Applicants are required to submit the most recent audited financial statements for a development.
- Incomplete applications and those omitting requested documentation will not be evaluated until corrected and complete.
- All applications must be received by .

#### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

Non-profit housing developers, for-profit developers, Public Housing Authorities, Cities, Towns, Faith-Based Organizations and Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs).

To download an application packet: [www.rhodeislandhousing.org](http://www.rhodeislandhousing.org)

For additional information contact:

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