



Request for Proposals to Administer Day 1 Families Grant Funds: Direct Cash Transfer

The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) is seeking proposals from eligible providers to administer funds that provide assistance to families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness in the form of Direct Cash Transfer (DCT).

Introduction

Communities across Ohio continue to have significant need for flexible resources to assist families in crisis and help them avoid entering the homelessness system and/or quickly obtain stable housing. To help address this critical need, COHHIO is awarding [Day 1 Families Grant](#) funds (also called Day 1 funds here) to eligible providers to expand Diversion and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) resources and bolster the provision of equitable services and assistance.

There is emerging evidence that [Direct Cash Transfer](#) (DCT) is an effective way to provide immediate and impactful support to households experiencing a housing crisis. DCT has been shown to reduce barriers to services while increasing efficiency and equity. Therefore, these grant funds are to be distributed by providers to households in need in the form of Direct Cash Transfer. Providers will execute Direct Cash Transfer to households in need via pre-paid debit card. Debit cards will be provided by COHHIO.

Incorporating Equity into Homelessness and Housing Programs

Within Ohio, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) make up 22% of the state's population, but 54% of those served by our homelessness assistance systems. Within certain Ohio CoCs, Black households are three times more likely to experience homelessness compared to White households. However, Black households are six times more likely to experience homelessness than White households statewide.

Traditionally, systemic racism and discrimination has resulted in disparities in the ways in which housing programs and homeless services impact BIPOC individuals and families. In order to make equitable change, we must challenge and disrupt our beliefs and understanding of how racism impacts our policies, services and outcomes. Part of this work is developing innovative, person-centered and trauma-informed services that have the potential to create transformative outcomes. Direct Cash Transfer provides an opportunity to efficiently and quickly provide assistance to those most disproportionately affected by homelessness. Cash Transfer is one tool for advancing equity by offering this type of assistance to BIPOC that have been underserved by other cash stimulus programs but it also has the potential to broaden our communities' perceptions and openness to fund and support these types of initiatives.



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Purpose

The purpose of Day 1 Families Grant DCT funds is to:

- Enhance providers' abilities to efficiently and equitably assist households by increasing access to flexible funds and technical assistance that will allow for utilization of best practices in helping families resolve their housing crises
- Empower households in need by giving them agency and autonomy in deciding how to best provide for their own housing stabilization

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to respond to this RFP, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be a non-profit organization or unit of local government
- Have experience implementing RRH or Diversion projects with family households experiencing homelessness and/or at-risk of homelessness
- Has completed REACH-Ohio's Racial Equity Assessment¹

¹ <https://cohhio.org/programs/racialequity/>

Funding Request Limits and Eligible Activities

Applicants are required to identify the amount of Day 1 funds they estimate their program can utilize in a one-year period. The maximum funding per organization is \$100,000.00 and is a one-time grant. Eligible activities include:

- Direct Cash Transfer to households in need via pre-paid debit card. Debit cards will be provided by COHHIO, and providers will have the ability to load each card as needed to each identified household

Eligible Households

- The household is currently enrolled in a diversion or RRH program
- The household has custody or is actively seeking custody of at least one minor child or is a household with an expectant mother that is at least six months pregnant

Other Requirements

- Assistance should be used to address the clients' stated need, that they identify will support progress in and toward their goal of housing stability
 - If at that time a grantee determines that longer term assistance is needed, they may work with local providers to transfer the client household onto another program for which they are eligible
- Grantees will be expected to designate at least one program administrator for use of the pre-paid debit card system. This designee will be responsible for attending training, system oversight using reports and dashboards, and training of other system users within the program
- Grantees will be expected to fully participate in quarterly community of practice sessions to share best practices, lessons learned and funder feedback iteratively throughout the funding period



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Other Requirements cont.

- Grantees will be expected to follow up with recipient households to the best of their abilities and furnish brief narratives or “success stories” to COHHIO (see Section III. E. below)
- Grantees will be expected to provide HMIS or standing program report data on recipient households
- Be able to participate and cooperate in an evaluation process

Funding Requests

Applicants should estimate and request the funding amount they believe can best meet the needs of eligible households in their service area over a 1-year period. Please provide proposed budget in Section IV below.

Grant Term

COHHIO will make one-time awards during calendar year 2022. Providers are expected to exhaust Day 1 funds by December 31st 2023.

RFP Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Activity</u>
08/01/22	Release of RFP
08/17/22	Information Session (<i>optional; attendance highly encouraged</i>)
<i>Register in advance at:</i>	
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91985738361	
09/02/22	Completed proposals due to COHHIO
09/19/22	Awards announcement
09/26/22	Execute MOAs and contracts with COHHIO

Selection Criteria

When selecting applicants to utilize Day 1 funds, COHHIO will prioritize the following (based on responses to sections I – IV below):

- Documented experience equitably serving families experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Documented experience administering programs and funds
- Evidence of sufficient organizational capacity to maximize use of funding
- Demonstrated understanding of and experience implementing programs that utilize best practices in serving those experiencing homelessness

Submission Standards

- Proposals must be submitted in pdf format (one document only)
- Proposals must adequately include Required Proposal Information in Sections I – VI above
- Proposals must be submitted via email to peterfowler@cohhio.org no later than **5pm on Friday, September 2nd, 2022**

Questions about this RFP can be directed to Peter Fowler at peterfowler@cohhio.org or 614.280.1984 ext.141.



REQUIRED PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Below is all the required proposal information for this RFP. Please respond to all sections (I. – VI.). Final submission must be pdf. format. Applicants may find it best to cut and paste the information below into a Word doc for composing and editing responses, and then save the final document as a pdf. for submission.

I. APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization:

Address:

City and County:

Zip Code:

Contact Person Name, email, and Phone:

II. WHY DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION WANT TO DO THIS PROJECT?

III. EXPERIENCE OF PROJECT APPLICANT

- A. Describe the organization's experience administering Diversion and/or Rapid Rehousing strategies. Description should include the number of years that the organization has administered resources for housing and homeless assistance. Description should also include how diversion and/or housing services are currently provided, the type of assistance provided, and the estimated number of households who are assisted with services annually
- B. Describe the organization's experience administering projects that follow Housing First models and that use progressive assistance approaches
- C. Describe how equity has been implemented in your organization and provide examples
- D. Describe any trainings relevant to Racial Equity or Housing First that the providers administering the grant have completed
- E. Describe how your organization utilizes feedback from People with Lived Expertise to ensure culturally responsive services

IV. PROVISION OF SERVICES TO PARTICIPANTS AND FOLLOW-UP

- A. Describe the breadth of resources and community supports clients' can access within your program (furniture bank, utility assistance, etc.)
- B. Describe how prospective households will be identified.
- C. Describe the method or rationale for determining the amount of Direct Cash Transfer that an eligible household receives
- D. Describe how these resources could advance equity in your community
- E. Describe your capacity to follow-up with recipients and furnish results narratives to COHHIO
- F. Describe what data or metrics could be used to evaluate outcomes, e.g., HMIS



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V. PROJECT BUDGET

A. Provide anticipated amounts to be applied to Direct Cash Transfers and any administrative costs that may apply. (see the Funding Request Limits and Eligible Activities section above).

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Direct Cash Transfers	\$
Administrative costs	\$
Other (describe)	\$

VI. Total Day 1 Families Funds requested (total of all Amounts from Section IV above):

\$_____ .00

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