

June 24, 2021

Our offices are closed on the weekend. If you think you'll need to access OCEAN during that time, make sure you are able to log in by 12 p.m. Friday.

For password resets, email <u>ocd@development.ohio.gov.</u> <u>DO NOT submit a ticket to the</u> OCEAN Help Desk.

Upcoming Events and Grant Deadlines

(click underlined text for more information)

Upcoming OCD Grant and Application Deadlines

No new items

OCD Meetings and Training Events

No new items

Other Training and Professional Development Events

July 28 – 29, 2021 OCCD Virtual Summer Meeting

New and Updated Items

COVID-19 Items

No new items

Administrative Items

- How to access OCEAN (updated to include naming designated signer)
- PY 2020 CHIP Program Awards
- PY 2019 CHIP Program Awards

Active OCEAN users receive the OCD Weekly Digest. OCD does not maintain a separate mailing list. If you are an active OCEAN user and not receiving the Digest, please check with your administrator and make ocd@development.ohio.gov a safe sender. Also, check your OCEAN profile and ensure your email address is correct. Click here for the Quick Reference Guide to update your information. Remember to use Internet Explorer when using OCEAN. If you need assistance navigating OCEAN, do not submit a ticket to the OCEAN Help Desk. Email your program representative with the grant number and screen shots of the issue.

As part of an ongoing effort to move to paperless operations, we encourage grantees to send all correspondence via email to your program representative or ocd@development.ohio.gov and copy your program representative. Since the physical office is closed to employees, items

mailed to our physical address will <u>not</u> be received in a timely manner. If you have any questions, please contact your <u>program representative</u>.

For HOME-funded Grants: When submitting a status report, if you receive an error message about unexpended HOME funds, click *Cancel* to clear the message and submit the report.

Environmental Review Process

Until further notice, grantees must submit environmental review Request for Release of Funds and/or Certification documentation via email to ocd@development.ohio.gov. Grantees may view and download Project-Specific Release of Environmental Conditions documents in OCEAN. OCD will not mail hard copies of these documents. Please email Cecilia Castillo at Cecilia.Castillo@development.ohio.gov or Tim Allen at TimothyM.Allen@development.ohio.gov if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

COVID-19 Administrative Updates

PY 2020 Round 2 Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) Program Funding Availability

The Office of Community Development has funds available through Round 2 of the Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act (ESG-CV) for renovation and street outreach. Supplemental funding for Round 1 Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP) CARES grantees for emergency shelter, alternate shelter, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing is also available. For more information, including how to apply, click here to download the forms.

Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program

The State of Ohio, through the Coronavirus Relief Fund Local Government Assistance Program, provides financial assistance to local governments for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on these resources, visit their webpage. For assistance in reviewing proposals or eligible uses, contact the Office of Budget and Management at grants@obm.ohio.gov.

Administrative Updates

Section 3 Labor Hours Reporting Requirement Begins July 1

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requires grantees to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by using HUD financial assistance are directed to low- and very low-income persons and to business concerns that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons to the greatest extent feasible. HUD recently issued new Section 3 implementing regulations that introduce "labor hours" as a new metric for measuring the effectiveness of Section 3 efforts. Section 3 requirements apply to HUD-assisted housing rehabilitation, housing construction, and other public construction projects when the total amount of assistance to the project exceeds \$200,000 and is committed on or after July 1, 2021. Beginning in PY 2021, grantees will have to collect and report labor hours for "Section 3 Workers" and "Targeted Section 3 Workers" for each activity subject to Section 3 requirements. This requirement only applies to grants issued on or after July 1, 2021.

To meet this new reporting requirement, OCD is developing a solution for grantees to report labor hours. Once completed, OCD will provide grantees with instruction on how to enter the data in early July on the TA site. As HUD releases more clarification on these reporting requirements, OCD will share this information with grantees. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Allen at timothy.allen@development.ohio.gov.

CHIP Program Virtual Technical Assistance Available

The Residential Revitalization staff is providing virtual technical assistance to CHIP grantees. We highly encourage CHIP Program Rehabilitation Specialists to schedule a virtual technical assistance visit for project scope of work and specifications. Contact <u>your program</u> representative for more information or to schedule a session.

OCD Partner Information

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