

CITY OF ASHLAND



Request for Proposals **Housing Trust Fund**

The City requests proposals from eligible applicants for the award of up to \$216,986 in City of Ashland Housing Trust Funds.

Background

The City of Ashland Affordable Housing Trust Fund was created to keep the Ashland community diverse by facilitating the production and preservation of affordable housing throughout Ashland. The City Council understands the changing nature of the housing market and therefore has established the policies and procedures for administering the AHTF to remain flexible to respond to changing market conditions and opportunities.

The primary purpose of the AHTF is to encourage the creation of housing for homeownership or rent, at a cost that will enable low and moderate income families to afford quality housing while paying no more than thirty per cent of gross household income on housing. To promote the rehabilitation, preservation and production of quality, well designed rental and ownership housing the AHTF will award funds to community development partners that are furthering the AHTF mission.

It is expected that the local contributions made through Ashland's Affordable Housing Trust Fund will leverage of State and Federal funds, as well as encourage private sector investment in affordable housing. To address the disparity between the cost of housing and the means of resident households to afford housing, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund aims to provide direct financial support to projects that retain or increase the supply of needed housing for households earning less than 120% the Area Median Income as defined by HUD.

Eligible Applicants

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is structured to ensure that many different types of organizations are eligible to receive financing. Eligible applicants include governmental subdivisions, community development corporations, local housing authorities, community action agencies, community-based or neighborhood-based non-profit housing organizations, other non-profit organizations, for-profit entities, and private employers.

Eligible Uses

Affordable Housing Trust Funds shall support the creation or preservation of housing that is affordable to households with incomes that do not exceed 120% of the area median income, as defined by HUD for the Medford-Ashland metropolitan service area. To retain a significant degree of flexibility the eligible uses have a broad application including the following:

- **Acquisition and Construction of new affordable housing.** Eligible acquisition and construction costs include reasonable costs associated with building or land purchases.
- **Conservation:** through the use of “green” technologies provided that the benefits of the energy savings is passed on in the form of reduced costs to the qualified occupants of the affordable housing.
- **Land Banking:** the purchase of land to be dedicated toward the development of affordable housing in the near or long term.
- **Predevelopment activities:** Costs associated with planning, architectural services, engineering services, landscape design, legal services, surveys, appraisals, site clearance and demolition, environmental clearance, permit application fees and system development charges, in support of the development of affordable housing..
- **Bridge loans:** Bridge loans are intended to provide funding to permit housing projects to proceed in advance of the availability of permanent project funding. Bridge loan funding is available for acquisition or construction activities to assist in development of low-income housing (for rental or owner occupancy).
- **Capacity Building** Direct grant awards for non-profit affordable housing providers to fund administration of an affordable housing project or program.
- **Rehabilitation and Emergency Repairs:** Eligible rehabilitation and emergency repair costs provided as part of an established program to secure units as affordable or to provide direct benefits to existing low-moderate income households.
- **Hazardous materials abatement:** Costs associated with the abatement of hazardous materials consistent with the Federal Lead Safe Housing Regulations HUD requirements at 24 CFR §35
- **Direct benefits** to low-moderate income households through an established program including down payment assistance, rental assistance, mortgage foreclosure prevention, emergency housing vouchers, homeownership training, renter education, or other programs intended to increase housing opportunities for Ashland’s low-moderate income residents.
- **Transitional and Emergency Housing** for homeless individuals and families through an established program to move people toward self-sufficiency.

Match Requirements

The Ashland Housing Trust Fund is intended to support the development of needed housing, but is not intended to provide the sole source of funding for any development project or housing program. To ensure that affordable housing providers, and organizations that assist individuals and families in obtaining needed housing, do not rely exclusively on AHTF to support their activities, it has been determined that;

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund contribution shall not exceed more than 50% of the total project, or program, cost. Required Match can be met utilizing Community Development Block Grants, State or Federal Funding, direct contribution from the applicant, private donations, and the contribution of land, materials or labor to the project.

In the case that land previously owned by the applicant is considered as required match, the value of the land shall be determined by a City approved certified appraisal completed by the applicant, unless otherwise directed in Oregon Revised Statute or City Municipal Code.

The valuation of land, and available equity to be considered as matching funds, shall be verified by the City prior to the disbursement of an AHTF grant when its value is considered as required matching funds.

Donated materials and labor which are proposed as required match through the development of a project shall have their value estimated at the time of application. The actual value of these contributions is subject to verification by the City at completion of the project.

Award recipients shall provide verifiable accounting for donated labor and materials, when such was necessary to satisfy the AHTF match requirements.

A recipient of an AHTF grant that fails to verify the match requirements have been satisfied at the conclusion of a project would be considered cause for the City to require full or partial repayment of any AHTF grants awarded to a project.

Proposal Requirements

Proposed Projects or Activities shall address the purpose of the Ashland Housing Trust Fund Framework and as supported by the information contained in the Ashland Housing Needs Analysis and Consolidated Plan as presented in the following documents:

- [Ordinance establishing the Affordable Housing Trust Funds](#)
- [Affordable Housing Trust Fund Policies and Procedures for administration](#)
- [City of Ashland Housing Needs Analysis](#)
- [City of Ashland Consolidated Plan for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds](#)

Proposal Format

The proposals should be concise and should contain the following sections in order as shown:

1. Introduction

- Describe organization and what is unique about the firm, its goals, and objectives.

2. Project Description

- Describe the program/activity for the respondent organization is seeking funding.
- Describe the target population expected to benefit from the program/activity.
- Provide the number of individuals, or households, expected to benefit from the program/activity.
- If applicable provide the number and type of housing units to be created or made habitable.
- Provide a detailed timeline leading to the completion of the proposed program/activity.
- Provide a map showing the project's location. If the project will serve a specific area, proposed project boundaries should be shown.

3. Project Experience

- Describe the respondent's organizational framework, special resources, and any other information to demonstrate that the respondent can effectively and efficiently complete the proposed program/activity.
- Describe the respondent's organizational experience in completing programs or activities similar to the proposal outlined in the RFP.
- List other organizations involved with this project and their level of involvement.

4. Funding Request

- Provide the requested amount of Ashland Housing Trust Funds.
- Provide the amount of any Community Development Block Grants requested under a separate application (if applicable).
- Provide a detailed project budget that includes all other funding sources anticipated to support the program/activity.

- Provide the proposed percentage of matching funds, including the estimated value of donated land or labor, demonstrating that the Affordable Housing Trust Fund contribution shall not exceed more than 50% of the total project, or program, cost.
- Provide a detailed budget including but not limited to: land acquisition costs, materials, building permit costs, predevelopment costs, professional services, and any other administrative costs.

Selection Criteria

The project is considered an eligible use or activity and benefits households earning less than 120% the Area Median Income.

If the project is related to the provision of technical assistance to affordable housing providers, the use of Ashland Housing Trust Funds functions to increase the capacity of the organization to specifically address the mission of the AHTF.

Scoring

- The project provides new affordable housing, or new affordability, through retention or rehabilitation of existing housing, within the City. The greater the number of units provided, the higher the ranking the project shall be given. (20).
- The agency submitting the proposal has the capacity to carry out the project and has had demonstrated successes completing projects of similar scope. (20).
- The project is ready for implementation (For example: If the project includes the acquisition of property, the identified property is currently available for acquisition and the applicant has secured either a purchase option or letter of interest from the seller, and has addressed any procurement requirements for use of Community Development Block Grants if applicable). (15).
- The budget and time line are thorough and realistic. (15).
- The project addresses the unmet housing needs as identified in the Ashland Housing Needs analysis or Consolidated Plan. (10).
- The project retains the affordable housing units as affordable. The longer period of time the units remain affordable, the higher ranking the project shall be given. (10).
- Affordable Housing Trust funds shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary to complete the project. The lower the percentage of AHTF funds requested, relative to the full project costs, the higher ranking the project shall be given (5).
- The proposal demonstrates that Ashland Housing Trust Funds are the most appropriate funding source, and necessary, for the project. (5).
- The project addresses energy conservation through the integration of green building technologies in new construction, or achieves greater energy efficiency, water conservation, and/or waste reduction through rehabilitation of existing housing. (5).

- The project maximizes partnerships in the community (volunteers, in-kind contributions, cash contributions, multiple organizations involved, etc.). (5).
- The project utilizes already existing resources in effective and innovative ways and does not duplicate service provided by another organization. (5).
- That relocation of existing residents will be minimized, and when necessary the applicant has included accurate relocation assistance costs as part of the project pro forma. (5).

Question/Answer Period

If interested applicant organizations have questions or require clarification of various aspects of this RFP, please submit those questions or requests for clarification to Linda Reid, City of Ashland Housing Program Specialist, at or 541-552-2043 linda.reid@ashland.or.us, no later than February 10, 2020. Questions received after February 10, 2020 may not receive a formal response.

Application Schedule

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| Announcement of RFP | <u>January 10, 2020</u> |
| Question Period Closes | <u>February 10, 2020</u> |
| Proposals Due | <u>February 28, 2020</u> |
| Presentations to the Housing and Human Services Commission: | <u>March 26, 2020</u> |
| Presentations to Council/Award determinations: | <u>April 21, 2020</u> |
| Grant year begins: | <u>July 1, 2020</u> |

The deadline for application submittal is 4:30 p.m., February 28, 2020

Please submit one (1) electronic copy of the proposal, in PDF format, to the Housing Program Specialist at the Community Development Building, 51 Winburn Way, via email to linda.reid@ashland.or.us.

Or hand deliver the proposal to:

**Linda Reid
Housing Program Specialist
City of Ashland
51 Winburn Way Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520**

The respondent to the RFP is solely responsible to verify receipt of the proposal prior to the deadline. Funds to be awarded are public funds and any information submitted or generated is subject to public disclosure requirements.

PROTEST

Any prospective developer who contends that the provisions of the RFP or any aspect of the procurement process will encourage favoritism in the award of the contract, or substantially diminish competition, must file a written protest to the RFP at least ten days prior to the date set for the opening of proposals. Failure to file a protest will be deemed a waiver of any claim by an offeror that the procurement process violates any provision

of ORS Chapter 279, the City of Ashland Local Contract Review Board Rules or the City's procedures for screening and selection of persons to perform personal services.

The City reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor irregularities in submittal requirements, to request modifications of the proposal, to accept or reject any or all proposals received, to award full or partial funding of any request, and/or to cancel all or part of this RFP at any time prior to awards.

CONTRACT

Selected award recipient(s) will be expected to enter into a written contract with the City of Ashland. The City of Ashland shall prepare an agreement between the City and award recipients. The agreement shall outline the conditions of award and shall be executed prior to the disbursement of any Affordable Housing Trust Funds. Unconditional refusal to accept the contract provisions proposed by the City without offering acceptable alternatives may result in disqualification of the offeror or a less favorable evaluation of its proposal.
