

State Grants & Loans

In addition to requests by state agencies for technical/professional services (published in the State Contracts Section), the *State Register* also publishes notices about grants and loans available through any agency or branch of state government. Although some grant and loan programs specifically require printing in a statewide publication such as the *State Register*, there is no requirement for publication in the *State Register* itself. Agencies are encouraged to publish grant and loan notices, and to provide financial estimates as well as sufficient time for interested parties to respond.

Applying for Grants

Have you checked up on all the “active” state grants? Only for *State Register* subscribers is a “Contracts & Grants” section available that lists all grants and contracts open for bid. Open the *State Register* and click on Bookmarks in the upper left corner. You will see a list of ALL the current rules, with an INDEX, and previous years’ indices, as well as a list of all contracts and grants open for bid. Subscribe and receive LINKS to the *State Register*. You also receive. Subscriptions cost \$180 a year (an \$80 savings). Here’s what you receive via e-mail:

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- Updates to Index to Vol. 31
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- Indexes to Vols. 31, 30, 29, 28 and 27

It’s all E-mailed to you, at end-of-day on Friday, instead of waiting for the non-subscriber’s issue released on Monday. Contact Cathy Hoekstra, our subscriptions manager, at (651) 297-8777, or **Fax:** (651) 297-8260, or **E-mail:** cathy.hoekstra@state.mn.us

Minnesota Housing Finance Authority REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS for Housing Trust Fund - Temporary Rental Assistance for Families Seeking or Utilizing Emergency Shelter

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing) announces the availability of funds through a one-time Request for Proposals (RFP). This one time funding announcement is in response to the increase in the number of families with children experiencing homelessness. These funds are available to fund temporary rental assistance to families with children seeking or utilizing emergency shelter in Hennepin or Ramsey County. The funds will be provided in the form of a grant for the term of two years, with second year funding contingent upon funding availability.

AGENCY MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Minnesota Housing’s mission is to finance and advance affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income Minnesotans to enhance quality of life and foster strong communities.

Minnesota Housing’s strategic priorities are:

- End long-term homelessness
- Increase emerging market homeownership
- Preserve existing affordable housing
- Finance new affordable housing opportunities

A complete copy of the strategic plan can be found at:

http://www.mnhousing.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/document/mhfa_006586.pdf

MULTIFAMILY RFP FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The temporary, one time funding announcement is available under the Housing Trust Fund to provide temporary rental subsidies to families with children seeking or utilizing shelter in Hennepin or Ramsey County.

Funding Availability

Estimated total funding through the Housing Trust Fund RFP is up to \$1.5 million.

Types of Multifamily Funding Available

The funds will be provided in the form of a one time only, two year grant for rental assistance, to be administered under the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) as defined in *Minnesota Statutes* §462A.201, subd. 2(a) B.

Eligible Applicants, Projects, and Activities

Eligible applicants are described under 4900. 3725, including a non-profit organization; a for profit organization; a limited dividend entity; a cooperative housing corporation, a city; a joint powers board established by two or more cities; a public housing agency; an Indian tribe or tribal housing corporation or a natural person. Eligible projects and activities include tenant or sponsor based rental subsidies, security deposits, and other housing related expenses for families with children in need of, or who are utilizing emergency shelter in Hennepin or Ramsey County. Program activities and administration are to be eligible under the Housing Trust Fund Rule.

Income Limits

Funds must be used to provide rental subsidies to families with children whose gross incomes, at the time of initial occupancy, do not exceed 60 percent of median income as determined by HUD for the metropolitan area. The median income may be adjusted for family size for families with five or more people.

Selection Standards and Funding Priorities

In addition to the eligibility threshold for applicants to use funds to assist families with children seeking or utilizing emergency shelter in Hennepin or Ramsey County, selection standards and funding priorities are described under 4900.3765 and 4900.3766. Selection and funding priority criteria is also outlined in the Housing Trust Fund Program Guide at:

http://www.mnhousing.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/document/mhfa_006223.pdf

APPLICATION PROCESS

Access application materials as follows:

- Application materials and instructions are available on Minnesota Housing's website, at: <http://www.mnhousing.gov>.
- If you are unable to access the website or need assistance locating or identifying the appropriate materials, contact Elaine Vollbrecht at (651) 296-9953 or toll free at 1-800-657-3701 or: elaine.vollbrecht@state.mn.us.

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal(s) Due

- Must be **received** by Minnesota Housing by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2009.
- RFP Applications must include the following materials:
 - 1). The Multifamily Application Form electronically submitted,
 - 2). Housing Trust Fund - Temporary Rental Assistance Application electronically submitted,
 - 3). Housing Trust Fund - Temporary Rental Assistance Application Form with original signature plus one copy, and,
 - 4). All required attachments (narratives, forms and submittals) plus one copy.

NOTE: Except as provided above, applications which are faxed, e-mailed, submitted late or determined to be incomplete will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.

Minnesota Housing Board Approval

- Housing Trust Fund Temporary Rental Assistance RFP recommendations will be made at the February 26, 2009 Minnesota Housing Board meeting.

Funding Notification

Notification of funding awards will be posted on the Minnesota Housing website after the Board meeting.

- Selection letters will be mailed within 10 business days of the approval.

It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to further fair housing opportunities and to administer its housing programs affirmatively, so that all Minnesotans of similar income levels have equal access to Agency programs regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to receipt of public assistance, disability, or family status.

This request for proposals is subject to all applicable federal, state, and municipal laws, rules, and regulations. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to modify or withdraw this RFP at any time and is not able to reimburse any applicant for costs incurred in the preparation or submittal of proposals.