

MaineHousing Weekly ARRA Report

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Overview of funding received by the agency by program

None

Amount of funding expended/obligated

No additional funding has been expended or obligated.

Contracts advertised/executed

- Homeless: MaineHousing expects to send out Subgrantee Agreement contracts to all subgrantees for all the HPRP initiatives by September 18, 2009.

Summary of Recovery related meetings that the agency participated in

- Homeless: MaineHousing staff conducted HPRP budget trainings for all subgrantees on September 15 -16, 2009. These trainings were designed to prepare subgrantees in the area of tracking and reporting their HPRP allocations in accordance with MaineHousing and federal reporting requirements.

Summary of major agency communication related to the Recovery Act

- Homeless: The Homeless Department submitted a request to HUD on September 4, 2009 for a waiver to the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Grant Agreement. The reason for this request is to obtain a waiver for the restriction that prevents HPRP funds to be used to pay rent for the properties owned by the sponsoring agency, which will be York County Shelter Programs.

List of major actions taken to date related to the Recovery Act and major planned actions

- Tax Credit Exchange: MaineHousing learned today that HUD has approved the start of construction on the Bangor Senior Housing project on Harlow St. in Bangor. The project developer is Volunteers of America (VOA). The general contractor has trucks and equipment en route to the site to begin construction today. On Thursday, September 24th, a groundbreaking is scheduled at Greentree Apts. in Augusta, another affordable housing project funded in part by ARRA Tax Credit Exchange funds. MaineHousing staff will attend.
- Homeless: MaineHousing staff has been collaborating with the other Maine grantees, City of Portland and Cumberland County, in the area of HPRP HMIS (Homeless Management Information Systems) data collection and reporting. MaineHousing will provide the first HPRP HMIS training which will be held on September 30, 2009.

Any anticipated or known issues/challenges related to ARRA

- Homeless: MaineHousing staff continue to work with HUD on access to Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) ARRA funds through IDIS, HUD's data and fund management system.
- Homeless: MaineHousing staff has been working with the HUD Field Office in Manchester to obtain instructions for processing a waiver to our grant agreement. We have followed the HUD protocol since July 2nd and it has been challenging to obtain specific details from HUD on the waiver application process. We will have information ready by the end of this week to submit a request to HUD but we still haven't received the appropriate process from HUD. We cannot move forward with some sub-grantee agreements until we can obtain a waiver from HUD. As of September 16, 2009, MaineHousing has not received any response from HUD on the September 4th waiver submission.