



# Workforce Housing Grants

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### ***What is workforce housing?***

Workforce housing refers to safe, decent housing for working low- and moderate-income people who cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work. Workforce housing initiatives often focus on occupations that provide the bulk of vital services for communities—teachers, firefighters, police officers, nurses, health care workers—but these grants are also meant to assist a broader range of working people including, retail sales workers, restaurant workers, technicians, office workers, etc. Workforce housing initiatives may also include programs focused on households in certain income levels, or programs designed to address a uniquely defined workforce housing need.

### ***Who is Ira Gribin and why are these grants named after him?***

Ira Gribin, former President of the National Association of REALTORS®, was a tireless advocate for fair and affordable housing for diverse populations. This grant initiative honors his memory and promotes REALTORS®' commitment to increase housing opportunities by assisting working families to reach the first rung on the homeownership ladder.

### ***Why is NAR offering these grants?***

Today's tight economy and the continuing mortgage crisis are making it more and more challenging for working families to purchase and keep homes. Communities across the country are faced with increasing pressure to provide more affordable workforce housing.

NAR's 2007 Housing Foundation PAG identified workforce housing as a critical housing issue in which REALTORS® could play a leading role and recommended that NAR develop additional programs on workforce housing and identify ways to support state and local efforts on this issue. The Ira Gribin Workforce Housing Grants distribute funding directly to state REALTOR® foundations and associations to promote workforce housing initiatives within their state.

### ***Why are the grants focused on state foundations?***

Over the past few years, a number of state REALTOR® foundations have sought substantial support from NAR for large scale housing initiatives they developed. NAR does not have a national housing foundation through which to fund programs of that scale. In an effort to address these growing requests, the Ira Gribin Workforce Housing Grants are designed to target resources to state REALTOR® foundations to support their efforts. The grants are made at the state level with the goal of creating a more substantial impact.

NAR recognizes that many states and territories do not have a REALTOR® foundation; accordingly, in the absence of a state/territory foundation, state and territorial associations may apply directly.



### ***Who can apply?***

All state and territorial REALTOR® housing foundations are encouraged to apply.

State or territorial associations without a foundation may apply for the Workforce Housing grants directly. For a state or territorial association that does not have a foundation, but wishes to establish one, NAR will provide technical and financial assistance to help them create a foundation. For more information about getting help to establish a housing foundation, e-mail Lora McCray at [iragribingrants@realtors.org](mailto:iragribingrants@realtors.org).

Local REALTOR® housing foundations or associations are not eligible to apply directly for the funding. However, local foundations and associations are encouraged to work with their state to participate.

Individual REALTORS® or firms are not eligible to receive funding under this program.

### ***How do I apply?***

To apply you must submit a signed and dated grant application form and proposal, which includes a program description, a detailed program budget, a program timeline, an evaluation plan, and a sustainability plan. You also have to submit financial data on your organization and any supporting studies, reports, or collateral materials relating to the need for the proposed project and the issue to be addressed which you deem relevant.

Applications and supporting documentation should be submitted to NAR by either mail, e-mail or fax at:

Lora McCray, Manager, Housing Opportunity Program  
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
[iragribingrant@realtors.org](mailto:iragribingrant@realtors.org)  
Fax: 202-434-9706  
Phone: 202-383-7560

### ***How much money can we receive?***

The program provides one-time grants on a sliding scale.

State or territorial associations that have a membership of 5,000 or less are eligible for a grant of \$50,000. State or territorial associations with more than 5,000 members are eligible for a grant of \$50,000 plus an additional two dollars per member for each member over 5,000, resulting in grants of over \$100,000 for some states or territories.

An Applicant can apply for a grant smaller than the maximum allowed if its proposed program does not warrant the larger amount. This does not preclude the Applicant from applying for additional funds, up to the maximum limit, at a later point within the application period, 2009-2010.

### ***What year do I use to indicate the membership size?***

In determining the size of grant for which it is eligible, the state/territorial association may use its current membership number or the number or the membership number from 2008.

### ***What will get funded?***

Under this program, funds may be awarded:

- To support the implementation of a workforce housing program developed by the state foundation/association.
- To support the implementation of an NAR workforce housing program within the state.
- To launch or expand a REALTOR® education program related to workforce housing.

This allows for a broad range of program solutions to be funded.

***If these are grants for state foundations and associations how can a local foundation or association participate?***

Contact your state or territorial REALTOR® housing foundation or state association to indicate your interest to participate. A state/territory can apply for funding to support one or multiple local foundation/association programs.

For example, a state might create an umbrella-type initiative to support workforce housing programs in multiple locations across the state by dispersing funds to selected local foundation/association workforce housing programs within the state. Or a state might seek funding for a local association's program that the state believes is a model approach, which can be replicated in throughout the state to address workforce housing issues.

***What's the deadline to apply?***

Applications will be accepted during a two-year period, 2009-2010. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the 2-year application period.

In an Applicant's initial application requested less than the maximum limit, the Applicant may apply for additional funds, up to the maximum limit, at a later point within the 2009-2010 application period.

***If I miss the deadline, will I be able to apply later?***

This is not an ongoing program. The funding provided will be available in 2009 and 2010 only. It will not rollover to the next year.

***What happens after I apply?***

NAR will review the application package to ensure that it is complete and meets the application criteria. If the application does not sufficiently address a component of the criteria, or if materials are missing, NAR will contact the applicant to request the additional information that is needed. HOP staff will provide technical assistance to help applicants refine and fully complete their applications.

To receive grant funding, an application must be approved by the review committee, which will judge whether the application meets the criteria and is an effective approach to providing workforce housing.

***Who decides if we receive funding?***

The review committee is composed of the chairs and vice chairs of the Housing Opportunity Committee and Housing Opportunity Advisory Board and an appointed state association/foundation staff executive.

***When do we receive the money?***



After an application is approved, NAR staff will send the Applicant a grant acceptance letter which spells out the terms of the grant, any restrictions on use of the funds, a payment schedule, and reporting requirements.

Upon receipt of the signed and dated grant acceptance letter, NAR staff will initiate the process to issue the grant check(s).

If an application is approved, funds may be distributed by NAR in one lump sum or in stages as the applicant meets specified benchmarks.

***Who do I call with questions?***

For more information on the program or to apply for a grant, please visit [www.realtor.org/iragribingrant](http://www.realtor.org/iragribingrant) or call Lora McCray at 202-383-7560.