

EASTERN PANHANDLE HOME CONSORTIUM OF WEST VIRGINIA

The Eastern Panhandle HOME Consortium of West Virginia was formed in 2006 to enable the Cities and Counties of the Eastern Panhandle to receive HOME Investment Partnership Program funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HOME funds are used to provide affordable housing opportunities for low income households. The HOME Consortium receives approximately \$489,000 per year. The primary use of HOME funds has been to provide the Homebuyer Assistance Program providing interest-free, deferred payment loans for downpayment and closing costs to low-income first-time homebuyers. To date 333 households have been assisted.

The members are the City of Martinsburg, Berkeley County, Jefferson County and Morgan County and their municipalities. The City of Martinsburg is the lead member and responsible for program administration and grant management. The HOME Consortium has three (3) representatives from each primary member and there is one at-large member. The Council meets quarterly in the month in May, August, November and February.

The HOME Consortium Council oversees the program and provides guidance on the use of funds. The primary duties and responsibilities of the Consortium Council are as follows:

1. Define an overall strategy and programs based on the needs of the Consortium members.
2. Establish priorities for the use of HOME funds.
3. Approve the allocation and distribution of funds among the Consortium members.
4. Approve the annual consolidated Action Plan in regard to the use of HOME funds.
5. Provide advice on the eligibility and feasibility of specific project activities.
6. Ensure that any required matching funds are provided by the Members or from the non-federal funds portion of HOME assisted projects.
7. Review and approve any amendments to the Cooperation Agreement.
8. Review and approve documentation submitted by non-profit organizations for designation as a local Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). Monitor and recertify annually any CHDO's.
9. Adopt and assure compliance with affirmative marketing policies and procedures.
10. Provide guidance and direction in promoting and affirmatively furthering fair housing in the Eastern Panhandle.