

THE IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS

Budget cuts are not something that has been new to the housing assistance industry over the last decade. It seems that it has been a continual challenge Housing Authorities across the country have faced.

Sequestration, however, has only added to that challenge. Housing Authorities struggle to continue assisting the households that would, quite frankly, face some frightening circumstances without the assistance all while trying to do so with fewer and fewer dollars.

Here are a couple of examples of how the budget cuts and sequestration have impacted our community. The Housing Authority of the City of Pocatello is approved to assist 616 households on the Housing Choice Voucher program. Currently, due to the cuts, we are only assisting 521 households. Another example is the Capital Fund Program which provides for capital improvements at Christensen Courts. That grant has decreased by 26% over the last four years.

Similarly, Administrative Fees, which pay the staff and other office expenses (utilities, postage, etc...) have decreased by even more. These are all just few of the examples of the impact these cuts are having on the programs administered by HACP.

I share this information because we routinely have people ask how sequestration is impacting housing. Despite the bleak picture, you can be assured that we will continue to do the best we can with the limited resources that are being made available to us. *Sunny*

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If someone were to pay you ten cents for every kind word that you have spoken about people, and collect five cents for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?



Quote provided by CW Cullen

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Randy serving lunch at Maple West

GOOD NEWS

The Housing Authority HAS been awarded 15 VASH vouchers. These vouchers are created as a partnership between HUD and the Veteran’s Administration. The vouchers are specifically designed to help homeless veterans. Applications are made through VA and then those who qualify are referred to HACP to receive the voucher. We look forward to leasing these vouchers up and hope to have them all out in the community by the end of the year!

Contracting Opportunities for the City of Pocatello

As part of its RENEWAL Program, the City of Pocatello’s Neighborhood & Community Services Division offers bidding opportunities to area contractors. Rehab projects include plumbing, electrical, and HVAC work, as well as roof replacement or repair and sidewalk installation. Interested contractors can request to be placed on bid mailing lists by calling 234-6255, or can view current bids at the Housing Authority office, at City Hall or on the City’s website at www.pocatello.us. Preference is given to Section 3 residents and business concerns. For more information, please call 234-6185

Pest control tip: If you suspect you have bed bugs or cockroaches, do NOT use aerosol products. We have been told by our exterminators that these products only make the pest retreat into walls and other hiding places, multiply, and then BAM!!! You have a full on infestation!



Remember! Maintenance can always be reached at 220-9621!!