

Housing accepting applications for 2025 BIA Housing Improvement Program

The Housing Improvement Program seeks to enhance the quality of life of qualified individuals by addressing sub-standard housing and homelessness.

The program provides grant funding for housing repairs and renovations of existing homes, construction of modest replacement homes for families who do not own a home but have ownership or lease if sufficient land suitable for housing.

The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- You are a member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.
- You live in an approved tribal service area.
- Your annual income is 150-percent or less of the Department of Health and Human Services poverty income guidelines.
- Your present housing is sub-standard.
- You meet the ownership requirements for the assistance



needed.

- You have no other resources for housing assistance.
- You have not previously received assistance.
- You did not acquire your present housing through past participation in a federal government-sponsored housing program over the previous 20-year period.

To apply for assistance, submit the following to the Warm Springs Housing Authority. Applications can be picked up at the Housing Office during regular work hours or call 541-553-3250.

- Complete HIP Application.
- Copy of your Tribal Enrollment Card (Tribal ID).

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- Proof of Income for Entire Household.
- Proof of Land or a Land Lease.
- Proof of Disability (if claiming disability in HIP application).
- Proof of veteran status (veteran card, discharge papers, veterans assistance).

There are four categories of available housing grants:

- Category A: Up to \$7,500 in safety or sanitation repairs to the house.
- Category B: Up to \$60,000 renovation to bring your house to standard housing condition.
- Category C: A modest house.
- Category D: Maximum of \$75,000 assistance towards the purchase of a modest house.

Category B, C and D can only be received one time only.

Nuclear power proposal on Columbia River

Interest in nuclear energy as a solution to ‘dirty’ sources of power is growing, including a proposal in the Northwest. However, some critics say it could divert attention from more practical renewable energy solutions.

Amazon has signed an agreement with X-energy to build new nuclear technology, known as small modular reactors, to meet the company’s growing energy needs. The aim is to build the reactors at the Hanford nuclear site along the Columbia River.

Kelly Campbell, policy director for Columbia Riverkeeper, said companies are looking into nuclear because they want it to be a ‘magic bullet’ for climate change.

“It’s a distraction,” Campbell contended. “It’s a shiny object that you can say, ‘Look over here! We’re going to do “clean”

nuclear power.’ But it’s going to take 15 years at least to build these things, and meanwhile there’s still part of the problem of trying to get more energy supply for the data centers and AI needs.”

While small modular reactors are seen as an innovative way to provide nuclear energy without having to build large power plants, none has been built in the United States or approved by the federal government.

An Oregon-based company called NuScale, at the forefront of small modular reactor design, had its only customer back out last year because of repeated delays in the project.

Campbell pointed out the location of the project Amazon and X-energy are moving forward with is also a concern.

“It’s right on the Columbia River, and if there’s an emergency, if there’s an accident with

any of these nuclear facilities at Hanford, it would affect all of them,” Campbell emphasized. “You may end up in a situation where you’re not able to get in and do the things that you need to do in order to protect people from radiation.”

After Amazon and Google expressed interest in nuclear to fuel their growing energy needs, the U.S. Department of Energy announced it would invest \$900 million in the technology.

Warm Springs Recreation Department Presents:

Christmas Ndn Night out MC: Ray "Captain" Moody

Community notes...

The Warm Springs Car Lights Parade is this Thursday evening, December 12. The theme is *The Grinch*. Line-up is at 4, judging at 5, and the parade starts at 6.

The Warm Springs Housing Authority tenants who have an emergency after hours and on weekends, You can call the Warm Springs Police dispatch at 541-553-1171 and request the Housing on-call service.

Emergencies include a broken water line, sewer backing up, any electrical issues and kicked-in exterior doors. All other non-emergency work orders will be taken care of the next business day.

The Elks Basketball Hoop Shoot Contest for boys and girls ages 8-13 is at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 14 at Madras High School. Registration will be done on site that morning.