

Breaking Ground

The Monthly Newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

..... August 2002

Taft Administration Set to Axe Housing Programs...Again

While the Governor's proposed budget for State Fiscal Years 2004-2005 is not due out for another five months, preliminary statehouse reports regarding funding for key housing and homeless programs are grim. More specifically, the Housing Trust Fund stands to be cut by 30 percent, the housing related line items (Supportive Housing for the Homeless, Emergency Shelter Grant, and CDC Operating) stand to be cut by more than 15 percent, and the TANF Housing Program may well be eliminated. Based on what we know and what we expect to happen, here is a breakdown of the cuts:

Line Item/Program	Approved SFY 02-03	Actual SFY 02-03*	Taft Proposed SFY 04-05
195-638: Ohio Housing Trust Fund	\$21.5-\$22.1	\$20.1-\$18.4	\$15.5-\$15.5
195-406: Supportive Housing for the Homeless	\$2.7-\$2.7	\$2.5-\$2.2	\$2.1-\$2.1
195-440: Emergency Shelter Grant	\$2.7-\$2.8	\$2.5-\$2.3	\$2.1-\$2.1
195-431: CDC Operating	\$2.4-\$2.4	\$2.3-\$2.0	\$1.9-\$1.9
195-497: TANF Housing Program	\$5.2-\$6.5	\$5.2-\$6.5	\$0-\$0

*Though State Fiscal Year 2003 started over a month ago, the Administration is still deciding on how much to cut these programs

In spite of the amounts actually approved for each of the programs, the amount that ended up going out the door so-to-speak, was usually less. In an effort to try to explain these differences, here is a brief rundown of the cuts that have already taken place. Shortly after the budget was approved in July of 2001, all SFY 2002 General Revenue (GRF) funded programs (including all housing programs except the TANF Housing Program) were cut by one-and-a-half percent. In October of 2001, all GRF funded programs were cut by an additional six percent. In January of 2002, all SFY 2003 GRF funded programs were cut by one-and-a-half percent. This was followed up in May with another six percent cut. For those of you keeping score, the cut tally is up to 15 percent...and there are more to come. While not confirmed, it appears as though the Administration is preparing to cut an additional nine percent from all GRF funded housing programs. If this holds true, all key housing and homeless program in the state budget (with the exception of the TANF Housing Program) will have been cut by more than \$8 million compared to what was approved in the budget.

As if this were not bad enough, the Administration seems committed to cutting these key programs even more in its 2004-2005 biennial budget. Based upon what we can tell thus far, the Taft Administration is preparing to cut the Housing Trust Fund by an additional 15 percent for its "base" budget proposal for the coming two years. In dollars and cents, that puts funding for the Trust Fund at \$15.5 million a year. As for the other key programs, things are not as clear. As mentioned earlier, the Administration is still trying to finalize cuts to this year's programs. Until that happens, we will not know with any degree of certainty what the "base" for each of the programs will be. In terms of the TANF Housing Program, the future seems clear. The state is facing a \$300 million hole in the TANF budget. In spite of a request to expand the Housing Program, it seems likely that its future is short lived.



While the state budget picture is bleak right now, it does not have to stay that way. For the next twelve months, the battle around the state budget will be COHHIO's number one priority. We can't do it alone. WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP. Please stay tuned to future editions of *Breaking Ground* for additional information. You can also visit the COHHIO web page at www.cohhio.org for updates.

Buckeye Case Going Up to the Supreme Court

In the November 2001 edition of *The NIMBY Report*, the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) featured an item on the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation and its long odyssey to build 72 units of low and moderate income housing in the city of Cuyahoga Falls. The item focused on a favorable court ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, which concluded that Buckeye had a right to go forward with its lawsuit, which claimed that the city had violated the Fair Housing Act and the Due Process clause of the United States Constitution when it withheld necessary permits and put the proposed site plan to a public referendum by voters.

Buckeye was able to build the complex after the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the city's use of the referendum violated the state constitution, but sought to recoup potentially millions of dollars to compensate for the loss of financing and delays in construction caused by the city's intransigence.

The underlying claim before the Sixth Circuit was that, in using the referendum process, the city allowed opponents of the complex to use the referendum process to kill it, and that this action had a disproportionate impact on people of color and families with children. Buckeye claimed that the city essentially adopted the discriminatory views of citizens and denied equal housing opportunity. The city has tried to describe the case as one in which it acted neutrally and allowed the citizens to determine land use issues. It says that the referendum, in which voters rejected the affordable housing complex by a 3-to-1 margin, and the city's refusal to issue the permits based upon that outcome, are just legitimate expressions of political opinion, which are protected by the First Amendment and therefore cannot constitute violations of the Fair Housing Act.

Ominously, on June 24, 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the Sixth Circuit's decision. While the Court limited the questions it would consider, this case will have enormous impact on the use of civil rights laws to fight community opposition. It will be the first time the Court will consider whether a city can be sued for discrimination without "smoking gun" evidence of an intention to discriminate.

As NLIHC reported in their November 2001 story, Buckeye took on this issue in large part because it wanted to send a message on behalf of all providers and tenants that local governments and community opponents cannot deny housing opportunities. Advocates are urged to rally to Buckeye's support. Buckeye seeks support from fair housing and civil rights organizations, law school legal clinics, developers and homebuilder groups, among others. COHHIO is supporting these efforts.

For more information contact Gil Barno, Executive Director, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation, at 614/337-9718, ext. 106 or gbarno@aol.com; or Ed Kramer, Executive Director and Diane Citrino, Senior Attorney, Housing Advocates, at 216/391-5444 or email: dcitrino@gwis.com. *Reprinted from The NIMBY Report, National Low Income Housing Coalition, July 2002.*

COHHIO Web Page Redesigned

The COHHIO web page is in the process of being reorganized and redesigned. The web page will retain all of the helpful information currently housed there including the Directory of Services, Legislative Directory, homelessness and housing factsheets, action alerts, etc. Please take a minute to visit the web page at www.cohhio.org and see our new look. Comments regarding the web page can be sent to susanfrancis@cohhio.org.

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves HUD Budget Bill

On July 25th, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the Fiscal Year 2003 HUD-VA appropriations bill. This bill is part of a larger appropriations bill which funds a variety of programs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), as well as a number of Independent Agencies. All tolled, this bill includes \$32.1 billion for HUD, which is \$734 million above the Administration's request. Specifically, the bill includes:

- \$1.215 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, including \$193 million to renew expiring Shelter Plus Care grants. This level is \$93 million above last year, and \$86 million above the Administration's request. The bill did not shift Shelter Plus Care renewals to the Housing Certificate Fund, as many advocates had wanted, but these renewals were fully funded;
- Funding to renew all expiring Section 8 contracts;
- 15,000 new Housing Choice (Section 8) vouchers--19,000 fewer than proposed by the Administration;
- \$1.95 billion for the HOME program, which is \$104 million above last year, but \$134 less than requested by the Administration;
- \$4.61 billion for Community Development Block Grants;
- \$292 million for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program--the same as the Administration's proposal, and \$15 million more than last year; and
- \$153 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the same as the Administration's request, and \$13 million above last year. The Committee did not transfer responsibility for the program from FEMA to HUD as the Administration had requested.

Next, the bill will move to the full Senate for consideration. The House of Representatives will probably begin considering their version of the bill sometime in September. With members of Congress on recess, however, no action is expected during the month of August. For additional information please visit the Senate Appropriations Committee web site at <http://appropriations.senate.gov>.

Other Federal Happenings

In addition to the HUD budget, there have been a number of other happenings at the federal level with respect to affordable housing and/or homelessness. More specifically:

- On July 18th, House and Senate Conferees agreed to rescind nearly \$740 million from HUD's Fiscal Year 2002 appropriation. This amount includes \$388.5 million in unobligated Section 8 funds, \$300 million in interest reduction payments recaptured from Section 236 properties, and \$50 million from the HOME program (this was intended for President Bush's downpayment assistance program which was not authorized by Congress). If the \$388.5 million is not available from the Section 8 program, the rescission will be applied to other HUD programs.

- The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced that funds are available for serving homeless veterans. Community-based organizations and tribal governments providing supportive housing or services for homeless veterans are eligible for per-diem payments to help offset operating expenses. Applications are due August 14th. Additional information can be found at www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=3.

AmeriCorps Update

We would like to welcome COHHIO's newest AmeriCorps Members. Following is the list of those that joined at the beginning of July: Shannon Draper at Catholic Charities in Norwalk, John Henderson at Harbor Light in Cleveland, Heavenly Roberts at Harbor Light in Cleveland, Wendy Rigo at Harbor Light in Cleveland, Regina Jones at Lutheran Social Services in Lancaster and Burhan Dahir at the YWCA/IHN in Columbus.

July 24th through the 26th, was our state-wide service project at RESTOC in Cincinnati. We had 30 people in our group. The event included a tour and a history account of RESTOC. There was plenty of work for our members, and our aim to "Get Things Done" was accomplished. It was a very worthwhile and memorable project for everybody.

In September the members will receive their final training from COHHIO for the year. It will be held in a camp setting in Southern Ohio.

ODOD Announces Trust Fund/TANF Housing Program RFP

Late last month, the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) within the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) announced the availability of up to \$10,400,000 through the Housing Trust Fund/ TANF Housing Program Request for Proposal (RFP) Program. A total of up to \$5,500,000 is available through the Housing Trust Fund to be awarded as either grants or loans. As in the past, there are two funding categories (Housing Services and Housing Assistance) for which eligible organizations can apply. Generally speaking, the maximum grant or loan amount is \$200,000 in either category or a total of \$250,000 if applying for activities in both categories. The maximum grant period for either category is 24-months.

A total of up to \$4,900,000 is available through the TANF Housing Program to be awarded as grants. Eligible organizations can apply for a maximum of \$250,000 over an 18-month grant period for activities such as supportive services linked to housing, downpayment assistance, emergency home repair, and/or emergency rent or mortgage assistance. These activities can be provided only to TANF eligible families. The submission deadline is Friday, September 20th. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the application, please contact Bob Johnson at OHCP at 614/466-2285.

As part of a continued partnership, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) has announced the availability of a limited amount of funds for local Mental Health Boards to use as match for approved RFP applications. As long as the applicants propose to serve persons with serious and persistent mental illness, ODMH will provide up to 75 percent (to a maximum of \$75,000) of the match requirement for eligible activities. For additional information on the ODMH match requirements, please contact Roma Barickman at ODMH at 614/466-5157.

Senate Committee Passes TANF Reauthorization Bill with Housing Provisions

By a 13 to 8 vote, the Senate Finance Committee passed its bill to reauthorize the expiring Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Known as the Work, Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (WORK) Act of 2002 and serving as a substitute for the House bill, H.R. 4737, the Senate bill differs in several respects from the House version with which it shares a bill number.

In the House, TANF recipients would be required to work for 40 hours, with 24 hours spent on specified work activities. The Senate bill maintains the overall 30-hour requirement in current law, but increases time spent on specified work activities to 24 hours from the current requirement of 20 hours. The Senate bill would also expand the list of activities that could count as work.

The WORK Act would increase childcare funding by \$5.5 billion over the next five years, appreciably more than the increase of \$1 billion under the House version of H.R. 4737. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) proposed an amendment to increase funding for childcare by an additional \$1.5 billion. Senator Bingaman withdrew the amendment after Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) gave positive signals about his support for an amendment for increased childcare funding on the House floor. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) ultimately voted against the TANF reauthorization bill as a whole because he considered the childcare funding inadequate.

Under current law and the House bill, states may not use TANF funds to serve legal immigrants for their first five years in the United States. The Senate would allow states to provide benefits to legal immigrants who have arrived in this country since the enactment of the current law in August, 1996. Also in contrast to the House bill, the Senate version does not have the broad "super-waiver" provisions adopted in the House. Those provisions would give governors and cabinet secretaries broad discretion to override legislation relating to TANF, food stamps, homelessness and public housing programs, among others.

In April, Senator John Kerry (D-MA) introduced S. 2116, a bill that would cause TANF policies to take recipients' housing needs into account. The WORK Act includes four provisions taken from or inspired by Mr. Kerry's bill. Under the WORK Act, housing support subsidized by TANF funds would no longer be considered "assistance" for the purposes of running the life-time benefits clock. Current law permits but does not define minor rehabilitation of housing, causing relatively few states to use TANF funds for that purpose. The WORK Act would leave the definition of "minor rehabilitation" up to the States.

Another component of Senator Kerry's bill that the Finance Committee adopted is the proposed authorization of a joint demonstration program by HUD and the Department of Health and Human Services for providing housing and services for families with multiple barriers to work. While S. 2116 would authorize \$50 million for this purpose, the WORK Act does not specify an authorization level. Kerry's bill had two provisions relating to coordination between TANF and housing agencies. While not adopting Kerry's specific proposals, the WORK Act would require that states using TANF funds for housing assistance certify that public housing agencies were consulted in the development of the state's TANF plan. *Reprinted from Memo to Members, National Low Income Housing Coalition, June 28, 2002.*

Cleveland Wins Round on Lending Law; Court Move to Block Mortgage Law Rejected

by Teresa Dixon Murray, Plain Dealer, July 27, 2002

The city of Cleveland can start enforcing its 4-month-old law to fight predatory mortgage lending, a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge ruled yesterday.

The city has been sued by mortgage lenders because the Ohio General Assembly in February adopted legislation forbidding local lending laws.

Despite the state law, Judge Peggy Foley Jones said it is "in the public interest" for Cleveland to move forward with its consumer protection law, passed in March. Jones said she was moved by witnesses such as Elmer Taylor, a retired government worker whose home was refinanced five times in three years, with tens of thousands of dollars in fees packed in. Taylor and two other witnesses testified during a hearing last week that loan officers tricked them into signing papers with high interest rates and exorbitant fees. All three elderly residents are now in financial trouble.

Cleveland's law aims to prevent that by requiring home-loan counseling for borrowers about to sign up for certain high-cost loans. Lenders won't be able to complete the loans without proof that the borrower has gotten advice from a counselor approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Some lenders in the city of Cleveland need to clean up their act and stop ripping people off," said Thomas Kaiser, Cleveland's chief trial counsel. "Now they stand warned." The Cleveland law also restricts interest rates on new loans, preventing lenders from charging too much above the prevailing rate. The average interest rate on 30-year mortgages this week is about 6.34 percent. Rates higher than roughly 10 percent would be prohibited without counseling, based on today's Treasury bond rate yield of 5.3 percent.

Area housing officials estimate that several thousand homeowners have been defrauded in the last few years by predatory lenders. Unethical lenders lie about the terms of mortgage loans, and consumers end up with interest rates of 13 percent or more and thousands of dollars in hidden fees.

Borrowers often don't realize discrepancies because forms are forged or switched, or because they don't read their loan papers closely enough.

The American Financial Services Association had asked the judge to grant a preliminary injunction against Cleveland, which she denied. Cleveland still faces additional suits from AFSA to force it to back off.

Cleveland Law Director Subodh Chandra said the city will start filing criminal charges and pursuing jail sentences for unethical lenders.

"People's homes are important things. You're not playing cards with someone and cheating them out of 50 cents," Chandra said. "Unscrupulous lenders should get ready to face the consequences."

Consumers can call the city's new consumer affairs office at 216/664-4529 or 216/664-4634.

Robert McKew, general counsel for AFSA, said he was disappointed that the judge didn't consider the magnitude of allowing a state law to be broken.

City attorneys had argued that Ohio's law violates the right to home rule, or communities' rights to make their own laws.

McKew also said the city's law, if it stands, will cause some lenders to leave Cleveland, increase costs or stop lending to higher-risk customers. "I suspect there are a lot of meetings being held in Cleveland at companies as far as what their lending policies are going to be," McKew said.

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For more information on COHHIO's effort to stop predatory lending, contact Cathy Johnston at 614/280-1984 or cathyjohnston@cohhio.org.

2002 Anti-Predatory Lending Toolkit: Produced by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, the toolkit provides community groups with the tools to challenge lending practices that contribute to predatory lending. Topics addressed include subprime and predatory lending defined; predatory lending scams; consensus building; and detailed summaries of federal, state and local anti-predatory lending legislation introduced in the 2001-2002 legislative sessions. To download the toolkit, go to www.ncrc.org/svcs/pubs.html.

Regional News: *Marietta* - the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) will hold their Annual Conference at the Comfort Inn in Marietta on August 14-16. The theme for the Conference is "Developing Resources in Challenging Times." Some of the workshops for the conference are: The Future of Job Training and the Workforce Investment Act, Rural Housing Issues and Opportunities. For additional information contact Allyssa Melford at 740/594-8499, ext. 213 or amefford@coadinc.org.

OHFA Independence

In early 2000, the Management Improvement Commission (MIC) 2000 was convened to evaluate the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the operations of several state agencies, including the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD). The transition of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) from its current status as a Division within the Department to an independent, quasi-governmental entity was determined by the MIC 2000 to be the most important ODOD recommendation. This recommendation also reflects the norm among OHFA's peers, as the vast majority of state housing agencies in the country are structured as quasi-public entities or non-profit corporations.

OHFA employs approximately 95 persons, and is responsible for administering a variety of "bricks and sticks" affordable housing programs - i.e., resources that are used for the production and preservation of decent, safe housing for low and moderate-income Ohioans. OHFA's primary programs include:

- Mortgage Revenue Bond Program (a.k.a. First-Time Homebuyer Program)
- Affordable Housing and Seed Money Loan Programs
- Low -Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- Multifamily Bond Program
- Housing Development Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance Payments Program
- Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF)
- An extensive monitoring/compliance effort (more than 3,000 units annually)

The cumulative value to the Ohio families who benefit from the utilization of these programs exceeds one-half billion dollars on an annual basis.

There are several key points about OHFA's operations:

- It is self-supporting. The agency charges a fee for all of its financing services, and uses no General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars for its daily operations. The only exception is the compensation OHFA receives from ODOD for the administration of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund; this accounts for approximately 5 percent of the agency's total operating budget.
- The agency's annual operating budget is approximately \$8.8 million.
- Since its formation in 1983, OHFA's assets have grown from \$445 million in FY 1984 to \$2.93 billion as of 12/31/01. In this same timeframe, its net worth has increased more than ten-fold, from \$11 million to approximately \$148 million.
- The agency works with a variety of for-profit and non-profit developers, investment banking firms, and conventional lenders in implementing its programs. It is closely tied to Wall Street, and typically issues AAA-rated debt.
- OHFA relocated from the Riffe Tower in May of 2001, and now is housed in the Augsburg Building at 57 East Main Street.

Following release of the MIC 2000 report, an internal group of ODOD and OHFA senior staff was formed to identify and address issues associated with the possible independence of OHFA. This working group has met with a number of sister state entities (including Auditor of State, Department of Administrative Services, Office of Budget and Management, Treasurer of State, and the Ohio Water Development Authority) to get a better perspective of the best structure for the "new" OHFA. The working group subsequently determined that the new structure should include:

opment Authority) to get a better perspective of the best structure for the "new" OHFA. The working group subsequently determined that the new structure should include:

- An 11-member board, 9 of whom would be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The remaining two members would be the Directors of Commerce and Development, or their designees. This represents no change from the current structure of the board. However, by design the "new" board would be more autonomous, with responsibility not only to review and approve programmatic design but also for the first time to have greater oversight of operational and administrative matters.
- OHFA employees would be eligible for PERS.
- OCSEA, the existing union, would stay in place and the contract would transfer to the "new" OHFA upon independence.
- In order to assure consistent standards of care, selected OHFA funds - specifically those related to required payroll appropriation - would be maintained in a custodial account in the State Treasurer's Office. In addition, the agency will continue to be audited by the State Auditor.
- OHFA's employment ceiling would be lifted, allowing the agency to add employees based specifically on programmatic needs and economic justification.
- OHFA would be released from specific OBM and DAS budgeting, purchasing, and procurement requirements, and the OHFA Board would oversee operations and adopt necessary guidelines.

More recently, this internal group has worked at length with the Department of Development's Chief Counsel as well as external bond counsel to develop draft legislation for consideration by the Legislative Service Commission in preparing a bill for OHFA independence. Representative Michelle Schneider (R-36) has been selected by the Speaker's Office to be the lead sponsor for this legislation. This legislation reflects the MIC 2000 recommendation for OHFA to become independent of ODOD and to be structured as a quasi-public entity. The intent of the legislation is to enable the new OHFA to be more business-like by transferring administrative and operational control of the agency to a newly empowered board. This autonomous and yet accountable board is key to achieving the management flexibility that results when the agency's budget and operations - including manpower ceilings, compensation for management personnel, purchasing, contracting, and all other operational/administrative functions are decided by the OHFA Board instead of OBM or DAS.

The proposed independence of OHFA is not a radical idea, as 42 of the 49 state housing agencies are structured as quasi-public entities or non-profit corporations. An independent OHFA will be even more responsive and professional, offering a wider range of programs and services with improved outreach to its program users. This will enhance the quality of life for low and moderate income families in Ohio by expanding the breadth and availability of affordable housing programs. It will provide the agency's partners - bankers, realtors, developers, non-profit organizations, and investors with an improved array of services and increased access to them. While many of the benefits, such as indirect cost savings, will be achievable in a relatively short period of time, others will involve a continuing effort to improve and expand program offerings.

Reprinted with permission from the Council Voice, newsletter of the Ohio Housing Council, Spring 2002.

COHHIO Positions Available

COHHIO is an equal opportunity employer and offers a competitive salary with health insurance, 403(b) plan, and paid leave benefits. Interested candidates should send cover letter, resume, and salary history to Executive Director, COHHIO, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Section 8 Project Coordinator

Purpose: To assist the Executive Director in the development, planning, and implementation of the outreach and training project regarding the Section 8 contract renewal crisis and the Mark to Market Program. Primary duties include providing training and technical assistance, making presentations (written and oral), assisting the Director in impacting policy developments at the federal, state and local levels around the preservation issue and other duties as may be assigned.

Qualifications: Commitment to improving the housing situation of low-income and homeless people in Ohio. A minimum of 5 years experience in affordable housing activities, such as development and/or organizing and advocacy with tenants; ability to work effectively with community-based organizations and diverse constituencies; good organizing, policy analysis and communications skills, including computer literacy. Demonstrated ability and experience in collaboration with other professional staff. An advanced degree in a related field is preferred. Some travel, mostly in-state, is required.

Primary Responsibilities: The Section 8 Project Coordinator shall carry out an agenda of education, outreach, training and technical assistance activities regarding Section 8 and related issues for the Coalition in collaboration with other constituent organizations in Ohio. Specific duties include but may not be limited to, the following:

Training and Technical Assistance: Assist non-profit housing organizations in housing related technical assistance and training programs, including methods of effectively utilizing state and federal housing programs to improve and preserve the Section 8 stock. Support the development of local Section 8 coalitions and assist them in campaigns particularly related to improving and preserving Section 8 stock in their communities. Assist tenant organizations in assessing potential restructuring and other risks to enable them maintain affordable housing. Take the lead on the development of training and technical assistance activities regarding Section 8 issues for the COHHIO conference and other training activities.

Community Education: Educate various constituencies such as public housing authorities, community action agencies, local community development officials, local housing non-profits, and other housing related professionals regarding the Section 8 stock and the Mark to Market program. Provide various educational services, through conferences, workshops, regional meetings, newsletters, the media and other means. Provide various educational service through COHHIO and other conferences, workshops, regional and community meetings regarding the Section 8 issues. Provide articles on emerging developments related to the Section 8 issue to be published in COHHIO and other publications. Seek out well placed media exposure to emerging issues related to the Section 8 crisis.

Public Policy: Assist the Executive Director to collaborate with other Ohio and national groups to research policy areas of preservation such as: expanding resources for preserving the Section 8 stock, encouraging viable non-profits to assume ownership of the projects, and related issues.

Administrative: Coordinate COHHIO's compliance with all reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Ohio Department of Development and other potential sources regarding the Section 8 - Outreach and Training Project. Provide staff support to the relevant board or advisory committee. Coordinate activities with the Tenant Outreach Coordinator.

Supervision and Compensation: The Section 8 Project Coordinator reports directly to the Executive Director. Salary with health insurance, 403(b) plan and paid leave benefits.

Hours: Full time, evening or weekend hours may be necessary. Some travel will be required, primarily within Ohio.

Housing + Services Coordinator

Purpose: Assists in the development and implementation of COHHIO ends policy agenda by coordinating Ending Homelessness, Mental Health Housing and Housing and Welfare activities. The Housing + Services Coordinator reports to the Executive Director.

Qualifications: Requires program administrative experience, leadership ability, and organizational skills. Must be able to work independently, as a team leader, and as part of a team. Must have strong public speaking and written communication skills. Bachelor's degree required. Experience in mental health, homelessness and public welfare programs required.

Primary Responsibilities:

- *Ending Homelessness:* Responsible for developing and implementing the homelessness advocacy and training/technical assistance agenda that is consistent COHHIO's ends policies. Provide staff support related to the Ending Homelessness Work Group, including development of meeting agendas, minutes and proposals for group discussion. Coordinate COHHIO's training and technical assistance work related to the development of the Homelessness Management Information System primarily for rural areas of Ohio, in conjunction with the HMIS consultant. Convene HMIS subcommittee as needed.

- *Mental Health Housing:* Responsible for developing the mental health housing advocacy and training/technical assistance agenda that is consistent with COHHIO's ends policies. Submit and ensure compliance with Department of Mental Health grant provisions, ensure accurate records are collected and maintained and ensure compliance with the budget and monitoring reports. Provide staff support related to the Mental Health Housing Work Group, including development of meeting agendas, minutes and proposals for group discussion.

- *Housing/Welfare:* Responsible for developing the housing/welfare advocacy and training/technical assistance agenda toward expanding the funding for housing with TANF funds and for the inclusion of the housing intersection with welfare reform. Assist TANF Housing Program grantees and the Department of Development in working through the administrative issues through advocacy and technical assistance. Provide staff support related to the TANF/Housing Work Group, including development of meeting agendas, minutes and proposals for group discussion.

- *Operational Support:* Provide staff support to the Managing Director in development and implementation of the COHHIO annual conference for relevant areas. Provide regular communications for relevant work areas through list serves, newsletter articles, etc. Participate in the staff fundraising and technical assistance coordination efforts. Serve as the Board representative for COHHIO to the Greater Columbus Community Shares by attending monthly meetings, serving on a committee, and ensuring COHHIO meets the 100 hour work requirement.

Supervision and Compensation: The Housing + Services Coordinator reports directly to the Executive Director. Salary with health insurance, 403(b) plan and paid leave benefits.

Hours: Full time, evening or weekend hours may be necessary to fulfill duties. Some travel will be required, primarily within Ohio.

HUD Announces Plan to Address Chronic Homelessness...

In remarks before attendees of the National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference late last month, HUD Secretary Martinez announced the Bush Administration's plan to better coordinate the nation's response to chronic homelessness. Included in the plan is a unique collaboration between three federal agencies that would provide \$35 million in permanent housing and critical services to end chronic homelessness.

The funding will include \$20 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$10 million from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and \$5 million from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The announcement came on the heels of the first meeting of the Interagency Council on Homelessness in six years. While the details of the funding are still a bit sketchy, it is expected that a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be issued in the fall.

In addition, the Bush Administration is announcing a multi-faceted approach toward meeting the goal of ending chronic homelessness in America. This approach includes the following components:

Prevention: For decades, the common strategy toward helping homeless persons was to move those in need through a system of care and toward permanent housing. Since 1987, for example, nearly \$11 billion from HUD's homeless assistance programs have helped hundreds of thousands of men, women and families to leave homelessness while thousands of others have come into homelessness. Modern research confirms prevention is critical if this nation is to have a comprehensive, holistic approach to the homeless problem.

HUD is joining the Department of Justice, HHS, VA and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education and Labor in Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative to identify at-risk persons and provide services before they become homeless. The purpose of this \$100 million program is to prepare offenders for life outside of prison and youth correctional facilities. This initiative provides approximately \$2 million to states to create a re-entry strategy that reduces homelessness among ex-offenders.

The costs associated with prevention and early intervention are significantly lower than the cost of providing emergency services once a person becomes homeless.

Greater Access to Mainstream Services: Research confirms that approximately 10 percent of the nation's homeless are so-called chronically homeless - often suffering from mental illness or addiction. Though a fraction of the overall homeless population, the chronically homeless account for more than half the resources designed to meet the needs of the entire homeless population. Currently 14 federal programs totaling \$2.2 billion a year help homeless persons in America, including more than \$1 billion annually from HUD. Only a fraction of homeless individuals and families, however, have sufficient access to approximately \$500 billion in mainstream services including Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps, and mental health and drug/alcohol addiction programs.

To provide greater access to these significant mainstream services, HUD, HHS and VA are sponsoring a series of regional "policy academies" across the country for state and local governments. These policy academies will now be offered to every state to provide local leaders the technical assistance they need to direct these necessary services toward homeless persons.

Education: While homelessness impacts entire communities, children are especially affected. Homeless children often do not receive the proper education that comes from a stable home environment, often moving from classroom to classroom as their families' circumstances change. As part of the President's "No Child Left Behind" initiative, the Department of Education is creating a liaison for homeless children in every school district in America. By having a dedicated person to assist homeless families, local schools can better serve children who have heretofore been underserved in schools. These liaisons will be responsible for ensuring these children have the access to the educational resources they will need to break the cycle of homelessness.

Community and Faith-Based Involvement: Recognizing that grassroots community and faith-based organizations are already providing a network of social service to meet the needs of the homeless, President Bush is charging HUD and four other federal agencies to remove existing barriers that preclude the participation of these important groups in federal funding opportunities. By rallying these "armies of compassion," the Administration hopes to tap into a crucial resource that, when leveraged with federal and other public-private resources, will further assist individuals and families without a home.

For additional information, please visit the Interagency Council on Homelessness web site at www.ich.gov.

Of Note...

Keith Wasserman, founder and director of Good Works, a homeless shelter in Athens, was named the first recipient of the Jenco Award. The award honors visionary leadership in Appalachia. Congratulations to Keith.

Ohio State Legal Services Association recently launched the Ohio Domestic Violence Resource Center - a comprehensive web site providing court forms and information to domestic violence and stalking victims, domestic violence shelters, victim advocates, attorneys, and other interested persons concerning the legal rights of domestic violence and stalking victims and available services. For more information, visit www.ohiodvresources.org.

GAO Investigation Requested - NCH Calls for Investigation of Violence Against People who are Homeless

The National Coalition for the Homeless is calling on Congress for a General Accounting Office (GAO) investigation into the nature and scope of violent acts and crimes that occur against people experiencing homelessness. NCH finds that people who are forced to live and sleep on the streets for lack of an appropriate alternative are in extremely vulnerable situations, and over the past several years advocates and homeless shelter workers from around the country have received news reports of men, women and even children being harassed, kicked, set on fire, beaten to death, and even decapitated. Over the last three years alone there have been 109 murders of people without housing by housed people, 140 victims of non-lethal violence in 82 cities from 32 states and Puerto Rico. NCH is asking groups to sign on to its request for a GAO investigation. The endorsement form is at www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes/signon.html. For more information, call Alma Gonzalez at NCH at 202/737-6444 x22.

National Public Radio Focuses on Homelessness and Housing...

Beginning last month, National Public Radio (NPR) launched a year-long special reporting project dubbed *Housing First*. The project is focused solely on exploring why it's so difficult for Americans with special needs to find good housing - and how the lack of affordable housing often stymies their efforts to join, and flourish in, the mainstream of society. Through extensive coverage on-air and online, *Housing First* will explore issues relevant to today's affordable housing crisis.

For additional information, please tune into your local NPR station or visit the *Housing First* section of NPR's web page at www.npr.org/news/specials/housingfirst.

Trust Fund Report Released

A new report that looks at the more than 275 state and local housing trust funds across the country was recently released, further bolstering advocates' claims that housing trust funds are an effective and efficient means to building affordable housing.

Housing Trust Fund Progress Report 2002: Local Responses to America's Housing Needs was released by the Center for Community Change. The report finds that housing trust funds supported at least 65,000 units of affordable housing last year, for a direct investment of approximately \$750 million. Generally, housing trust funds leverage \$8 for \$1 invested. According to the report, there are at least 275 state and local housing trust funds, with 38 state housing trust fund in 34 states. State housing trust funds have become among the most popular sources of affordable housing dollars and are seen as flexible funds that can address needs left unmet by other programs, the study shows.

Copies of the report can be obtained by contacting Kawanta Bullock at the Center for Community Change at 202/342-0567 or kbullock@communitychange.org. The report is free to community-based nonprofits and \$10 to all others.

Do You NEED to know more about Preserving Section 8 Buildings?

Spencer Wells of COHHIO's Preserving Ohio's Affordable Housing program is managing a weekly newsletter of Section 8 Preservation activities around the State. Every week, Spencer provides information on properties as they move through the Mark to Market process; gives updates on state and national HUD activities; provides vignettes about tenant organization activities around the state; and provides information on conferences and meetings on the issue of housing preservation. Get answers to the following questions:

- What buildings are scheduled for a Mark to Market meeting?
- What's HUD's position on Vouchers vs. Project based?
- What is Congress doing to preserve project-based Section 8?
- When's the next meeting of the Ohio Preservation Advisory Group?

To get a sample copy or to subscribe (FREE), send an email to ohiotenants@earthlink.net...or leave a message at 888/290-7368.

Look for COHHIO in Your Workplace

COHHIO will be participating in the following workplace campaigns this fall. Please consider supporting COHHIO - City of Columbus, several of the Combined Federal Campaigns around the state, Franklin County, Ohio State University and the State of Ohio Combined Charitable Campaign.

COHHIO Organizational Development Trainings

COHHIO, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ohio Department of Development, will be offering 10 trainings on organizational development, including issues of board development, fundraising and strategic planning, led by the Center for Nonprofit Resources.

The registration fee is \$25 per day of training per person. Each training has a maximum of 50 participants; and registration is limited to no more than three participants from one agency per training. Each day will include two trainings, the first running from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and the second training from 12:45 pm to 4:30 pm. Registrants may attend both trainings or just the morning or afternoon training. The cost is \$25 per day, regardless of attendance at one or both of the trainings. The registration fee includes lunch, breaks and materials. Lunch will be provided for all participants (morning and/or afternoon) at 12:00 pm. The trainings will be held at Catering by Design/Sanese Services, 6465 Busch Boulevard in Columbus. Directions are available by calling Catering by Design at 614/436-1234 or visiting the COHHIO web page at www.cohhio.org.

September 10 - BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Building Your Board Hat - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. The Roles and Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards and the legal obligations of board members. Includes the topics of planning, policy making, fiscal oversight, fundraising, evaluation, participation.

I Don't Do Fundraising - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm. Interactive session that explains the board's role in fundraising and gives them the skills needed to make the ask.

September 24 - FUNDRAISING I

Fundraising in a Box - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. General overview of all types of fundraising. Designed for beginners.

Grant Writing in a Box - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm. Researching, designing and writing a winning grant proposal will be discussed during this session.

October 8 - FUNDRAISING II

Fundraising Planning - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. This is the first step in fundraising...putting together your plan. Learn what goes in an effective plan and how to get there.

Special Events Primer - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm. Special events are the backbone of every organization. Learn how to design and implement a winning special event for your agency.

October 15 - HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Human Resources in a Box - Hiring, Sustaining and Firing Staff - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Learn the systematic rituals that will help you bring the right person into your organization and then elevating them to their fullest potential.

Budgeting in a Box - Advanced Budgeting Tools - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm. Advanced level information on the development of cash flow projections, dealing with unexpected expenses and loss of projected revenue.

October 29 - STRATEGIC PLANNING

Long Range Strategic Planning Processes - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Find out why you need to plan, what a good strategic plan consists of, and learn about the different methods of strategic planning.

Picking the Low Hanging Fruit - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm. Design a quick fix plan for those pressing issues... find out how to develop a set of actions that will get energy buzzing.

REGISTRATION

(one form per person, form can be copied, print clearly and complete the entire form)

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax, Email _____

_____ Please check for vegetarian lunch

**REGISTRATION FEE = \$25 per day per training per person
(the cost is \$25 per day, regardless of attendance at one or both of the trainings)
Limit of 3 participants per agency per training**

*Please check which training(s) you are registering for and whether you are planning on attending both trainings for the day or just the morning or afternoon training.
Lunch will be provided at 12:00 pm for all participants.*

September 10 - BOARD DEVELOPMENT

_____ Building Your Board Hat - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

_____ I Don't Do Fundraising - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm

September 24 - FUNDRAISING I

_____ Fundraising in a Box - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

_____ Grant Writing in a Box - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm

October 8 - FUNDRAISING II

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_____ Special Events Primer - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm

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_____ Human Resources in a Box - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

_____ Budgeting in a Box - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm

October 29 - STRATEGIC PLANNING

_____ Long Range Strategic Planning Processes - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

_____ Picking the Low Hanging Fruit - 12:45 pm - 4:30 pm

_____ Total Enclosed (COHHIO Federal ID. #31-1189029)

Checks can be made out to COHHIO and registrations with payment can be sent to COHHIO, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Questions? Call COHHIO at 614/280-1984.

Ohio City Pulls the Welcome Mat Out From Under Tenants

In apparent effort to upgrade its image and to keep out undesirable tenants, the city of South Euclid has enacted two ordinances that require landlords to gather detailed information from property owners concerning their rental units and unnecessary personal information about their tenants and pay an exorbitant fee for each rental unit. In order to comply, the owners of the city's 1500 rental units must gather information on every head of household, including name, home, business, cell and pager numbers, occupation, driver's license number and date of birth. The ordinance "conscripts landlords into being information gathering arm of the local government," says Cleveland lawyer Matt Lucas, who is representing landlords in a class action challenge to these and other provisions of the ordinance. According to Lucas, the ordinance also "gives an excellent excuse to a landlord who wants to discriminate" by refusing to even negotiate with a tenant who will not supply the private information. The ordinance also imposes an annual \$100 per unit fee for a certificate of occupancy, which is three or four times the fee charged by adjacent cities. Lucas believes South Euclid officials are trying to "maintain the quality of the city's rental stock, and believe that increasing the cost to landlords will increase rents, and keep out undesirable populations who can't afford to live there." His lawsuit, *Gottlieb v. City of South Euclid*, was filed in state court on June 4, 2001, and seeks a declaration that the ordinances violate the Ohio Constitution. For more information, contact Matt Lucas, at 216/241-5735 or mhLucas@ex100.com. *Reprinted from The NIMBY Report, National Low Income Housing Coalition, July 2002.*

Thoughts on this issue from Spencer Wells, COHHIO's Tenant Outreach Coordinator

When you live in a city that has a city income tax and work in a different city, you are liable for dual taxation. Ordinarily your place of business will withhold city income tax for the city in which your place of business is located, and then the taxpayer is required to file a separate return for the city of actual residence. (When I worked in Cleveland, I got withholding for the City of Cleveland, then had to file a separate return for the City of Cleveland Heights.)

Because resident homeowners are easy to find in the city of residence, it is fairly easy to find out who is obligated to file an additional return. Because tenants move more frequently and are not listed on the property tax duplicate, they can often escape the income tax in the residential community...hence the tenant registration laws that have been enacted in suburbs all around Cleveland over the last 10 years. It's a way for the city to find out who is a resident who works outside the city who may be liable for residential income taxes.

When similar laws were enacted in Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland and Lakewood there was some hue and cry...especially from:

1. Civil libertarians who thought the policy was an invasion of privacy
2. Tenants who thought they were being discriminated against or discouraged from renting
3. Landlords who thought that the city was interfering with their private property rights
4. People who wanted to evade their tax liabilities
5. Anyone else who thought this was a "conspiracy"

Fact is, to the best of my knowledge, these are pretty innocent revenue enhancement policies. HOWEVER in Cleveland Heights, there is an added bonus of using the tenant registration laws to target rental housing for more intensive housing code enforcement. To my mind...this is a good thing...since absentee owners have a way of not taking care of housing maintenance needs as promptly as resident homeowners. For more information, contact Spencer Wells at COHHIO at 614/280-1984 or spencerwells@cohhio.org.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio Membership

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Individual: _____ \$35 (Regular) _____ \$75 (Benefactor) _____ \$250 (Sustainer)
 _____ \$10 (Low-Income) _____ Fee Waiver Requested

Agency (according to budget):
 _____ \$35 (\$100,000 or less) _____ \$75 (\$100,001 - \$250,000)
 _____ \$125 (\$250,001 - \$500,000) _____ \$200 (\$500,001 - \$1 million)
 _____ \$250 (\$1 million-\$1.5 million) _____ \$300 (over \$1.5 million)

Please send your tax deductible check to COHHIO at 35 E. Gay St, Ste. 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Thank you for your support!

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Resources

TRAININGS

- September 10, Fair Housing Mini-Conference -- Analyze Your Community's Needs and Develop a Plan, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, Rio Grande. Program will aid award recipients in developing a plan for outlining housing needs and identifying impediments to housing choice, a requirement for various types of federal assistance. Examples of comprehensive, thorough and easily compiled fair housing plans will be distributed, as well as sample forms that may be used to collect pertinent information. Topics that will be discussed during the conference include: Overview of a Housing Plan; Impediments to Housing Choice; Analyzing the Impediments; and Eliminating the Impediments. The training is free and the registration deadline is September 3. For more information, contact Joyce Hill at 614/466-2285 or jhill@odod.state.oh.us.

- September 22-25, Expanding our Horizons - Great Lakes Conference on Addictions and Mental Health, Great Lakes Training Associates and Community Addictions Services of Indiana, Indianapolis. For more information, contact Great Lakes Training Associates at 317/283-8315 or info@greatlakesconference.org.

- October 2-4, Creating Community to Bring America Home Conference, National Coalition for the Homeless and the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Minnesota. A regional conference for homeless advocates, service providers, government officials, funders, communities of faith, policy makers, and people who experienced homelessness. Issues to be addressed include healthcare, education issues including the expanded McKinney rules for the education of children and youth, civil rights issues, economic justice, and housing including the national affordable housing trust fund. For more information go to www.nationalhomeless.org or e-mail Michael Dahl at bringamericahome@yahoo.com

- October 22-24, Be Part of the Big Picture - the 2002 Ohio Housing Conference, Columbus. Sponsored by the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. For more information, contact OCCH at 614/224-8446 or www.occh.org or OHFA at 614/466-0400 or www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa.

- October 30 - November 2 - Celebrating 20 Years of Building Communities, Enterprise Foundation, Dallas. Features the latest advances and tools, from financing and building affordable housing to community economic development to child care, workforce and safety opportunities. For more information, visit www.enterprisefoundation.org/training/netconf.

- November 7, Livable Communities: Linking Community Development and Smart Growth, Cincinnati. The focus will be on challenges faced by small to mid-sized cities throughout the Midwest. Sponsors include the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the National Neighborhood Coalition with support from the Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis and Chicago. For additional information, please contact Jeff Gatica, Senior Advisor, FRB-Cleveland at 513/455-4281.

November 13-15, 2002 OHCP Summit, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, Huron. Registration materials will be posted to the OHCP web site (www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp) in September. The summit will provide OHCP award recipients and their affiliates with training and technical assistance regarding program administration, compliance issues and housing and community development. For more information, contact Betsy Giffin at OHCP at 614/466-2285 or bgiffin@odod.state.oh.us.

National Homeless Voter Registration Week - September 22-28 - "You Don't Need a Home to Vote" seeks to protect and promote a homeless person's right to vote. Homeless programs will sponsor events to register homeless people to vote. For more information, contact Michael Stoops at 202/737-6444 or mstoops@nationalhomeless.org.

The HOPE (Home Ownership Participation for Everyone) Awards, created by a partnership of real estate associations, recognize organizations and individuals who help lower barriers to minority home ownership. Each award winner will receive a \$10,000 honorarium and have the opportunity to discuss his/her work with housing policy makers at a symposium at the National Press Club. The application deadline is Dec. 2. For more information and entry forms, visit www.realtor.org/HopeAwrdr.nsf.

Order Your Updated COHHIO Directory of Services

COHHIO is in the process of updating its Directory of Services, a listing of non-profit housing organizations and homeless service providers in Ohio. The Directory is organized by county and lists over 600 programs that serve homeless Ohioans as well as provide housing and economic development opportunities for other low-income families and individuals. The Directory includes organizations that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, health and mental health care, shelter for youth and victims of domestic violence, fair housing counseling, housing development expertise and permanent housing. The Directory also contains sections on local homeless and housing coalitions throughout Ohio, principle government funders and state-wide organizations addressing the needs of homeless and low-income people. National housing, homeless and community development organizations also are included in the Directory. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the COHHIO Directory of Services, please complete the order form below and return with payment to COHHIO.

Please send me _____ copy/copies of the Directory of Services at \$15.00 per copy or \$35.00 for three copies (cost includes handling and postage). Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to COHHIO, and mail with this form to:
COHHIO, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138; 614/280-1984
Federal Identification No.: 31-1189029

How to Contact...

NATIONAL

National Coalition for the Homeless: www.nationalhomeless.org

National Low Income Housing Coalition: www.nlihc.org

President Bush - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500; 202/456-1414; 202/456-2461 (fax); president@whitehouse.gov

Senators Voinovich & DeWine - United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Voinovich - 202/224-3353; 202/228-1382 (fax); voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov
DeWine - 202/224-2315; 202/224-6519 (fax); senator_dewine@dewine.senate.gov

Representatives - United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; 202/224-3121

STATE

Governor Taft - 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; 614/466-3555; 614/466-9354 (fax)

Ohio Senate - State House, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0604; 614/644-5466 (fax-R); 614/644-1982 (fax - D)

Ohio House of Representatives - 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; 614/644-9494 (fax)

Legislative Directories are available by contacting us: COHHIO - 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138; 614/280-1984; 614/463-1060 (fax); www.cohhio.org.

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- Joy Willis, Administrative Assistant - joywillis@cohhio.org

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Newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)

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COHHIO is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income people and those with special needs.