

# Breaking Ground

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

..... January 2002

## Breaking Ground Distributed by Email

COHHIO's newsletter, *Breaking Ground*, is now being sent via email to readers. This issue, January 2002, is the last issue that will be sent to everyone in the COHHIO database by regular mail. If you also received this newsletter by email, you will continue to receive the newsletter by email. If you did not receive this issue by email, then we do not have an email address for you, or we have an incorrect one, and we need you to contact us and give us the correct information. Please don't delay in contacting us. After this issue, a VERY limited number of newsletters will be sent out by regular mail, but the majority will be emailed. If you have any questions, concerns or need to give us your email information, please contact us in any of the following ways:

Susan Francis, Communications and Development Coordinator  
susanfrancis@cohhio.org  
614/280-1984 - phone  
614/463-1060 - fax  
35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215

The newsletter will likely be revised as we perfect the new layout over the next few months. If you have any suggestions regarding content or the look of the newsletter, please contact Susan. Thanks for your cooperation as we make this transition.

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## Predatory Lending Updates

**Police Go After Predatory Lenders.** According to the *Plain Dealer*, law enforcement in Northeast Ohio are starting to prosecute predatory lenders. The article, which ran in the January 11 *Plain Dealer*, stated that predatory lenders are violating existing laws including fraud, forgery, theft and tampering. In the past, when citizens complained to the police, the police most often considered it a civil case, not a criminal case. Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason is encouraging police to pursue these cases as criminal matters. In addition, the FBI is looking at criminal violations, including wire fraud, mail fraud, money laundering and bank fraud. Law enforcement agencies are forced to use these existing laws, because there is no law currently on the books that prohibit this type of fraudulent behavior.

**Predatory Lending Video Released.** The Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending sponsored a media briefing on January 7th to roll out the *Predatory Lending...it Can Happen to You* video, as well as offer some commentary on H.B. 386. The briefing was attended by some 20 different media types from television, radio and print. In addition to the briefing, copies of the video were delivered to every member of the Ohio General Assembly, along with a cover letter and copies of recent editorials on predatory lending.

**H.B. 386 Hearings Begin.** The Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee held its first hearing on H.B. 386 on the 8th. This hearing was designed to give the bill's sponsor (Representative Blasdel) an opportunity to comment on the legislation. The good news is that there were several questions about various aspects of the legislation offered by Democrats and Republicans alike. These questions ranged from concerns about home rule to the recent changes to the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act (HOEPA). While Senator Harris reiterated his hope that S.B. 76 (the mortgage broker bill) would have a positive impact on stopping some predatory lending practices and Senator White cautioned that overreaching legislation could drive out lenders and result in full employment for loan sharks through the mafia, there were some positive statements made. Senator Jacobson indicated a willingness to have a comprehensive regulatory scheme in place to protect homeowners and Senator Hottinger voiced concern about this bill interfering with home rule. Other comments included concern about the duration of the study committee as well as the effectiveness of current state law. While it is difficult to say, it looks as though the Senate may take a closer look at this bill than the House did. For additional information, please contact Rick Taylor at ricktaylor@cohhio.org or at 614/280-1984.



**OTAG Project Receives "Fix" For Funding Crisis**

A "fix" for the OTAG funding crisis was included in the Defense Appropriations Act passed by Congress last month. Thanks to all of our members and supporters who helped in getting Congress to address this problem! The fix language includes: a total of \$11.3 million to fix the Anti-Deficiency Act (ADA) violations; of that \$11.3 million, \$1.3 million is for reimbursement of funds that HUD owes grantees for the third quarter of last year; the remaining can be used to pay grantees for future costs incurred under the program; and a requirement of audits by the HUD Inspector General of every grant provided under the OTAG/ITAG program. Congress has told HUD to report by January 15 how they will address the ADA violations, carry out the audits, and spend the money. With this "fix", we are hopeful that we will be able to get back to business as usual in the near future! Please contact Jill Russ at [jillruss@cohhio.org](mailto:jillruss@cohhio.org) or 614/280-1984, if you would like more details on the funding "fix" or the OTAG program.

**Hope Brings New Energy to Ending Homelessness**

Thirty six Ohioans, service providers and consumers alike, attended the ending homelessness for people with disabilities of mental illness and substance abuse conference in Washington, DC in December. They joined over 800 others, in hearing and presenting ideas about real ways to end homelessness. Hope, energy, excitement and resolve virtually vibrated throughout the crowd.

Ohioans met to organize, discuss priorities such as improving the efficiency in SSI eligibility for our vulnerable population, and confirm their resolve to end homelessness in Ohio. The following are ways for you to get involved including: learning what practical programs are already taking place in Ohio to end homelessness; discovering what technical assistance and training will be available; and finding out the advocacy agenda that has been developed around ending homelessness. We need you, please join us by: 1) Attending the COHHIO Conference which will have several workshops with practical programs in place that are working toward ending homelessness; 2) Sending your e-mail address to join the list-serv which is being developed to share information and resources. Send your email address to Pam Argus at [pamargus@cohhio.org](mailto:pamargus@cohhio.org); and 3) Committing to serve on either of the two COHHIO workgroups, the Ending Homelessness Work Group or the Mental Health Housing Work Group whose energies are being focused on solutions. Contact Pam Argus at [pamargus@cohhio.org](mailto:pamargus@cohhio.org) or at 614/280-1984 for more information.

**Gayle Channing Tenenbaum Named Ohioan of the Year by the Plain Dealer**

Congratulations to Gayle Channing Tenenbaum who was honored for her tireless and effective efforts advocating for children and poor families. The December 30th, 2001 issue honored Gayle for her life-long work of making life better for children. Gayle has been a friend and significant ally to COHHIO and housing and homeless issues for many years, and we extend our congratulations and thanks for her work.

**Developer Gets Fined For Backing Out of Deal**

According to the January 11 issue of the *Daily Reporter*, an appeals court upheld a jury's ruling that a Toledo developer will have to pay \$156,500 in damages and sell land to Preferred Properties, a nonprofit organization, that will use the land to build housing for people with disabilities. Preferred Properties sued Indian River Estates, alleging that the company illegally backed out of a contract when they discovered the housing was intended for individual with disabilities. With this ruling, Indian River Estates will have to sell the land to Preferred Properties and pay the assigned damages.

**COHHIO Updates Directory**

COHHIO is in the process of updating our *Directory of Services*. If you are an organization serving homeless people or providing housing assistance to low-income Ohioans, please take a moment and fill out our survey, which is on the following page. The Directory is only as effective as the input we get from organizations around the state. Deadline for submission to the Directory is January 31, 2002. If you have questions, please call Susan Francis or Ricky Evans at COHHIO at 614/280-1984 or email us at [cohhio@cohhio.org](mailto:cohhio@cohhio.org). Thanks for your participation!

**2002 Homelessness and Housing Directory Survey**

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person and Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Located in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Counties Served: \_\_\_\_\_

Population Served:

- \_\_\_\_\_ All
- \_\_\_\_\_ Women w/Children
- \_\_\_\_\_ Men or Women w/Children
- \_\_\_\_\_ Men
- \_\_\_\_\_ Women
- \_\_\_\_\_ Children w/out Adults
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark below the area of work your organization is focused on. Mark as many as are appropriate to your organization's work.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Short-term rent and mortgage assistance (homelessness prevention)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency shelter - \_\_\_\_\_ capacity (per night)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional housing - \_\_\_\_\_ capacity (# of units)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supportive services for people who are homeless  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supportive Housing  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rental housing development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home ownership assistance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home repair
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fair housing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other; specify \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to help us develop a comprehensive and complete Directory of Services addressing homelessness and housing issues.

Return to: 614-463-1060 (fax); cohho@cohho.org; or COHHIO, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138. Questions - 614-280-1984

**COHHIO Conference Planning Underway  
Plan to Attend - April 22-24, 2002**

The COHHIO Conference will soon be here. You should have received your conference brochure by now. Please take a minute to register. The three keynote speakers have been confirmed. They are Dr. Frances Fox Piven, from the City University of New York; Sheila Crowley, the President of the National Low Income Housing Coalition; and Barbara Sard, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. If you need a copy of the brochure, please visit the COHHIO web page at [www.cohhio.org](http://www.cohhio.org) or call us at 614/280-1984. Conference information on the COHHIO web page includes the brochure, directions to the hotel and a link to the hotel reservation web page.

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**Youth Council Mural Featured at Akron Art Museum**

On January 5th, the Youth Empowerment Program's youth council from Akron enjoyed a bit of recognition from the Akron Art Museum. The museum pulled out all the stops to honor the efforts of the young Akron idealists by hosting a free, public reception. The reception marked the opening of the exhibition of a mural created by volunteers during the Akron youth council's Make a Difference Day Project. The mural is a vibrant, powerful three-part collage made in response to events of September 11th. It incorporates a range of media including paint, photographs, and local newspaper clippings that replicate the dramatic headlines, graphic images, human interest stories, and wall-to-wall coverage that characterized the event.

For the Make a Difference Day Project, YEP members shared leadership with Dara Johnson, an art director from the Elizabeth Park Recreation Center. During the event, as well as during the planning stages, YEP members showed that they could be tomorrow's leaders. They brought together volunteers of all kinds including students and teachers from the University of Akron Painting Department, who volunteered to build and prepare the canvas stretchers for the mural. YEP Council members raised over \$500 from area businesses for materials and food for the project. From creating an agenda and leading the opening circle, to serving lunch and facilitating a closing activity, the Make a Difference Day project was youth driven. For those in the Akron area, the museum will be exhibiting the mural for the next two or three months. For more information, contact Angela Lariviere, YEP Coordinator, at [angelalariviere@cohhio.org](mailto:angelalariviere@cohhio.org) or at 614/280-1984.

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**Criminalization of the Homeless Report**

The National Coalition for the Homeless will release the report on efforts by 52 cities in the United States to criminalize homelessness in the year 2000. Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo are all included in the report. There will be a naming of the 10 most intolerant cities in the United States toward homeless people. The three major Ohio cities, Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati are all planning on releasing this information with media events. Some of the results of the report will be included in the February newsletter. For more information, contact Brian Davis at the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless at [neoch@bbs2.rmrc.net](mailto:neoch@bbs2.rmrc.net) or 216/241-1104.

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**Regional News**

The Jefferson County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness held their annual "Homeless Memorial Day" prayer vigil and march on December 14. "This is traditionally the time we set aside to remember those who have lost the struggle against homelessness and poverty" according to Rose Ann Braniff, local participant and COHHIO Board member. This was also a time to continue to fight injustice. Robert Johns, Coalition chairman, said homelessness is a continuing national problem, one which affects 250,000 Americans in any given day and 2 million Americans throughout a year. Bill Faith, COHHIO's Executive Director, also attended the event and thanked the group for their tireless work. Also, recognized for her long-time commitment to advocating for the poor was Joann Moore who received the Coalition's Lifetime Achievement Award. For more information, contact Cathy Johnston at [cathyjohnston@cohhio.org](mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org) or 614/280-1984.

**A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities 2001**

To assess the status of hunger and homelessness in America's cities during 2001, The U.S. Conference of Mayors surveyed 27 major cities. The survey sought information and estimates from each city on 1) the demand for emergency food assistance and emergency shelter and the capacity of local agencies to meet that demand; 2) the causes of hunger and homelessness and the demographics of the populations experiencing these problems; 3) exemplary programs or efforts in the cities to respond to hunger and homelessness; 4) the availability of affordable housing for low income people; 5) the outlook for the future and the impact of the economy on hunger and homelessness. Among the homelessness and housing findings of the survey:

**HOMELESSNESS**

- During the past year requests for emergency shelter increased in the survey cities by an average of 13 percent, with 81 percent of the cities registering an increase. Requests for shelter by homeless families alone increased by 22 percent, with 73 percent of the cities reporting an increase.
- An average of 37 percent of the requests for emergency shelter by homeless people overall and 52 percent of the requests by homeless families alone are estimated to have gone unmet during the last year. In 52 percent of the cities, emergency shelters may have to turn away homeless families due to lack of resources; in 44 percent they may also have to turn away other homeless people.
- People remain homeless an average of six months in the survey cities. Fifty-four percent of the cities said that the length of time people are homeless increased during the last year.
- Lack of affordable housing leads the list of causes of homelessness identified by the city officials. Other causes cited, in order of frequency, include low paying jobs, substance abuse and the lack of needed services, mental illness and the lack of needed services, domestic violence, unemployment, poverty, prison release, and change and cuts in public assistance programs.
- Officials estimate that, on average, single men comprise 40 percent of the homeless population, families with children 40 percent, single women 14 percent and unaccompanied minors four percent. The homeless population is estimated to be 50 percent African-American, 35 percent white, 12 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Native American and 1 percent Asian. An average of 22 percent of homeless people in the cities are considered mentally ill; 34 percent are substance abusers; 20 percent are employed; and 11 percent are veterans.
- In 52 percent of the cities, families may have to break up in order to be sheltered. In 22 percent of the cities families may have to spend their daytime hours outside of the shelter they use at night.
- Officials in the survey cities report that the Federal Government's Continuum of Care policy has made a difference in their community's effort to address homelessness, and that the increase in HUD funding to address homelessness has resulted in more homeless families and individuals accessing transitional and permanent housing and reaching self-sufficiency in their cities.

**HOUSING**

- Requests for assisted housing by low- income families and individuals increased in 86 percent of the cities during the last year. Thirty-eight percent of eligible low-income households are currently served by assisted housing programs. City officials estimate that low- income households spend an average of 44 percent of their income on housing.
- Applicants must wait an average of 16 months for public housing in the survey cities. The wait for Section 8 Certificates is 20 months, for Section 8 Vouchers, 22 months. Nineteen percent of the cities have stopped accepting applications for at least one assisted housing program due to the excessive length of the waiting list.

For additional information, please visit The U.S. Conference of Mayors web page at:  
[http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/news/press\\_releases/documents/hunger\\_121101.asp](http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/news/press_releases/documents/hunger_121101.asp)

**Web Resources**

*Sources of Data on State and Local Housing Needs: Fall 2001* - The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) has compiled a list of data sources on state and local housing needs. The list details products available from the two main sources of housing data, the Census Bureau and HUD, and also describes several databases maintained by other organizations and available to the public. Key housing publications, Consolidated Plans, Fannie Mae's KnowledgePlex website, and homelessness data are included, and the specific data they contain are discussed. The report should be a starting point for anyone with housing data questions. [www.cbpp.org/11-30-01hous.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/11-30-01hous.htm).

*Mind the Gap: Issues in Overcoming the Information, Income, Wealth, and Supply Gaps Facing Potential Buyers of Affordable Homes* - LISC Center for Home Ownership examines ways to help low-income people buy homes. Through the use of certain innovative methods, such as second mortgages, Section 8 vouchers and individual development accounts, the home ownership gap can be bridged. [www.liscnet.org/resources/homeown/best\\_practices/mindthegap.shtml](http://www.liscnet.org/resources/homeown/best_practices/mindthegap.shtml).

*Affordable Housing Shortage Nears Crisis Proportions* - Approximately one out of every seven (13 million) American families has a critical housing need, including some 4 million low- and moderate-income working families, says National Housing Conference. [www.usnewswire.com/topnews/temp/0103-117.html](http://www.usnewswire.com/topnews/temp/0103-117.html).

*National Housing Trust Fund Update* - A national campaign is working to establish a National Housing Trust Fund that would build and preserve 1.5 million units of rental housing for the lowest income families over the next 10 years. HR 2349, The National Housing Trust Fund bill, gained 18 more co-sponsors to end the congressional session with 147 co-sponsors from 32 states. With one-third of the House co-sponsoring the bill, in the new year, the Campaign will focus especially on increasing co-sponsorship in the Senate. [www.nhtf.org](http://www.nhtf.org).

*Poverty in America Awareness Month* - In spite of the seemingly limitless prosperity that many Americans enjoy, millions of others are going hungry, foregoing medical care, doing without winter coats and gloves, struggling to break free from poverty. With more than 31 million residents, Poverty, USA, is the second largest state in America. Today, nearly 12 million children -- 1 in 6 -- live in poverty. Yet a March 2000 Gallup poll found that only five percent of Americans believe poverty and homelessness are important problems for the country. To bring attention to this forgotten state, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has designated January as Poverty in America Awareness Month. [www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/povamer.htm](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/povamer.htm).

*2001 Office of Housing and Community Partnerships Fair Housing Contacts*. The directory provides contact information for local fair housing contacts in Ohio representing more than 80 communities across the state. The directory is available online at [www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp).

*Office of Housing and Community Partnerships Shares Best Practices*. OHCP has posted two best practices on their web page featuring a Housing Trust Fund Request for Proposals award granted to the Better Housing League of Greater Cincinnati and a Ohio Small Cities Community Development Block Grant award to Jackson County. To review the best practices stories, log onto the website at [www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp), select "Publications" and then select "Good News."

*KnowledgePlex web site*. Recently launched by the Fannie Mae Foundation, it features housing and community development information. It is designed to provide housing and community development practitioners with information regarding the latest trends and developments in the housing and community development industry and will allow practitioners to share solutions to housing and community development issues with key policy makers. [www.knowledgeplex.org](http://www.knowledgeplex.org).

**Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 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!**

**HUD Resources**

- *HUD Examines Barriers to Affordable Housing Rehabilitation.* The rehabilitation of the country's aging housing stock is a major resource for meeting the Nation's affordable housing needs. Large numbers of communities recognize this and use HUD, as well as other public and private resources, to address their affordable housing needs. These communities do this because of the demonstrated economic and social benefits of rehabilitation. There is potential for even greater use of existing stock, not only to address affordable housing needs, but also to promote broader community revitalization goals. However, there has been a lack of in-depth research on the factors that act as barriers to rehabilitation of affordable housing. Gaining a sound understanding of the issue is difficult because barriers vary from project to project and from community to community. The report, which utilizes relevant literature, case studies, and study groups of highly-qualified real estate developers, nonprofit leaders, architects and other professional who face barriers to affordable housing rehabilitation in their "real world" experiences, can be accessed at [www.huduser.org/publications/destech/brah.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/destech/brah.html).
- *HUD Secretary's Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.* Recognizes organizations and agencies for their success in advancing the goals of historic preservation while providing affordable housing and/or expanded economic opportunities, particularly for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The submission deadline is March 1. For more information, call HUD USER at 800/245-2691 or download the application at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).
- *Tools and Strategies for Improving Community Relations in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.* Examines why the Housing Choice Voucher Program has become controversial in some localities and not in others. Download the report at [www.huduser.org/publications/pubasst/hcvpguide.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pubasst/hcvpguide.html).
- *Smart Codes in Your Community: A Guide to Building Rehabilitation Codes.* Provides a thorough, yet easy-to-follow guide for developing "smart codes," construction codes that encourage alteration and reuse of existing structures. Download the report at [www.huduser.org/publications/destech/smartcodes.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/destech/smartcodes.html).
- *Neighborhood Effects in Mortgage Default Risk.* Evaluates the impact of neighborhood characteristics on FHA defaults. Download the report at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).
- *Assessing Problems of Default in Local Mortgage Markets.* Examines concentrations of FHA defaults in certain neighborhoods and among certain lenders. Download the report at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).
- *Structural Design Loads for One- and Two-Family Dwellings.* Provides residential building designers and engineers with a practical and technically sound model for determining design loads for townhouses and low-rise detached houses. Download the report at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).
- *Study of the Ongoing Affordability of HOME Program Rents.* Examines to what extent HOME is meeting its legislative mandate to provide affordable rental housing. Download the report at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).
- *An Assessment of the Availability and Cost of Financing for Small Multifamily Properties.* Updates previous research and analyzes mortgage data for multifamily properties of different sizes. Download the report at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org).

**Other Resources - Training and Funding**

- *National Low Income Housing Coalition annual Housing Policy Conference* - April 29-30 - Washington, DC.
- *Housing Development Professional Certification Program*, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, Ohio Department of Development. *Single Family Home Ownership Finance* - May 13-16 - explores the skills required to successfully develop affordable, owner-occupied, single-family housing; *Multi-Family Housing Development Finance* - July 15-19 - presents a detailed look at the financing and development of multi-family rental housing; and *Housing Development Finance: Problem Solving and Deal Structuring* - October 7-11 - blends the financial analysis techniques covered in the first two courses with the problem solving and negotiating skills needed to successfully close complex housing deals. \$350 per course. For more information, contact Mary Dupler at OHCP at 614/466-2285.
- *Handspring Foundation* - focus on funding issues related to children/youth at risk. [www.handspring.com/company/foundation](http://www.handspring.com/company/foundation).
- *West Group* - funds programs that provide skills training and mentoring for youth and adults of diverse backgrounds. [www.westgroup.com/aboutus/grant.asp](http://www.westgroup.com/aboutus/grant.asp).
- *Teammates for Kids Foundation* - funds to specialize in working with needy children in the areas of health, education and inner-city services. [www.touchemall.com/apply\\_for\\_grant/apply\\_grant.htm](http://www.touchemall.com/apply_for_grant/apply_grant.htm).
- *Heinz Foundation* - funds education, scientific and other charitable purposes in furtherance of public welfare. Email - [Heinz.Foundation@hjheinz.com](mailto:Heinz.Foundation@hjheinz.com).

How to Contact...

**NATIONAL**

**National Coalition for the Homeless.** Hotline: 202/775-1372 or [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).

**National Low Income Housing Coalition:** [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org)

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

**Senators Voinovich & DeWine** - United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510  
Voinovich - 202/224-3353; 202/228-1382 (fax); [voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov](mailto:voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov)  
DeWine - 202/224-2315; 202/224-6519 (fax); [senator\\_dewine@dewine.senate.gov](mailto: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](http://www.cohhio.org).

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- James Page, AmeriCorps Leader - [jamespage@cohhio.org](mailto:jamespage@cohhio.org)
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- Kurt Weidner, Conference Assistant - [kurtweidner@cohhio.org](mailto:kurtweidner@cohhio.org)
- Spencer Wells, Tenant Outreach Coordinator - [spencerwells@cohhio.org](mailto:spencerwells@cohhio.org)

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

January 2002 • Volume 7 • Issue 1. Editor: Susan Francis

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.