

Breaking Ground

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

..... August 2003

Housing Needs in Ohio and Nationwide Subject of Field Hearing

Making good on his promise to hear about housing needs around the country, Representative Bob Ney (R-OH), chair of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the House Financial Services Committee, brought his colleagues to Columbus on July 29 to learn about housing and community development policies in his home state. Mr. Ney was joined by a fellow member of the subcommittee, Representative Pat Tiberi (R-OH), of Columbus. Representative Steve LaTourette (R-OH), a member of the full committee, and Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), a committee member in the 107th Congress, were also present.

The subcommittee had a full session, with 20 witnesses testifying. The topics covered by the witnesses were far-reaching, including the need for additional production and preservation resources, the proposed block grant of the Section 8 program, and community development issues in Ohio. On the topic of housing production and preservation, Bill Faith, Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, noted the passage of a permanent source of funding for the state's housing trust fund through the enactment of an increased recordation fee. Faith urged Rep. Ney to schedule a hearing on H.R. 1102, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, and emphasized the need for dedicated sources of revenue in the current budget environment.

Faith was joined in urging consideration of additional federal resources for production of rental housing to serve the lowest income people by Tom Slemmer of National Church Residences; representing the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; Bambi Baughn of the Community Action Committee of Fayette County; Roy Lowenstein of the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing; Sally Luken of the Corporation for Supportive Housing; William Hale of Portage Area Development Corporation; Roberta Garber of Community Research Partners; Charleta Tavares of the Columbus City Council; Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman; and others.

Witnesses also discussed the need to maintain the existing assisted housing stock. Slemmer pointed out the significant rehabilitation needs of assisted housing for seniors and the lack of capital reserves for such rehabilitation. Slemmer also pointed out the need for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to engage more actively in preserving assisted properties at risk of opting out of a federal housing assistance program or prepaying a federally subsidized mortgage. Faith thanked the subcommittee's staff for its help in trying to push HUD to restart the OTAG-ITAG program so that tenant organizations and advocates could continue to receive technical assistance funds to participate in preservation efforts.



There appeared to be no support for the block granting of the Section 8 program among the several panels that testified, although there were recommendations for more limited changes to voucher policy. LaToya Fisher described the value of the voucher program and the Family Self-Sufficiency program in helping her move from her mother's home into a rental apartment and then eventually into her own home. She said that she could not comment on the voucher program as it operates nationwide, but expressed concern about changes to the voucher program that could lessen it as a resource for people in Columbus.

Steve Gladman, representing the Columbus Apartment Association and the Midwest Affordable Housing Management Association, recommended increases in fair market rents and voucher payment standards, on-time payments for landlords, and discontinuation of inspections. Dennis Guest, Executive Director of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, while not proposing the elimination of inspections along the lines of Gladman's testimony, would require less frequent inspections. Fred Zawilinski of the Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority joined Gladman and Guest in opposition to the proposed block grant. Zawilinski poked holes in the argument that the Section 8 block grant proposal would improve coordination with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Instead, he urged greater attention to existing programs that could increase economic well-being, such as the Family Self-Sufficiency program.

The subcommittee adjourned its field hearing to continue its summer recess, but reports are that an additional field hearing will be scheduled somewhere in the South.

Housing Trust Fund RFP Issued

The Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing and Community Partnerships has issued the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Request for Proposals. A total of up to \$10.5 million will be distributed through this process. The submission deadline is 5 pm on September 24, 2003.

There are two categories of funding - housing services and housing assistance. Housing services includes supportive services with housing. Housing assistance includes the following activities - emergency rent, mortgage and utility assistance; homeless prevention implementation; project-based rental assistance; housing operations; tenant/ landlord mediation; emergency home repair/handicapped accessibility modifications; downpayment assistance and homebuyer counseling.

The application is available on the web at www.odod.state.oh.us/webforms. Questions regarding the RFP process should be directed to Bob Johnson at 614/466-2285.

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susanfrancis@cohhio.org.

FY 2004 HUD Budget Passes House

Just prior to their August recess, the U.S. House of Representatives passed its version of the Fiscal Year 2004 budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). While spending levels are some \$83 million less than the president's request, the final House version is somewhat better than what the Appropriations Committee recommended. On the floor of the House, Representatives Nadler (D-NY) and Velazquez (D-NY) offered and subsequently won approval of an amendment to add \$150 million to the Housing Certificate Fund for Section 8 vouchers. This 11th hour move (if it remains in the bill for the duration of the process) will help to eliminate the gap (currently estimated at 85,000 vouchers) between the number of vouchers that would be available at the appropriated level and what is actually needed to fully fund all existing vouchers. The amendment will be funded by an offset from HUD's Working Capital Fund, which supports information technology upgrades for the agency.

A separate amendment offered by Representative Fattah (D-PA) that would increase the funds available for technical assistance for the HOPE IV program from \$500,000 to \$5 million passed, as did another amendment offered by Representative Nadler (D-NY) to increase funding for the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program by \$5 million.

Unfortunately, an amendment offered by Representatives Lee (D-CA) and Schakowsky (D-IL) to move \$83 million from HUD's Working Capital Fund to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Programs failed to garner enough votes. Representative Davis (D-IL), who had planned to offer an amendment to increase funding for both the Housing Certificate Fund and HOPE IV, withdrew his amendment because the source of funds had been given away in tax cuts.

The Senate, which along with the House will not return to Washington until after the August recess, has yet to start working on its version of the HUD budget. It is expected that this work will begin in early to mid September.

For additional information on the FY'04 HUD budget (or that of any other federal agency), please visit THOMAS at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app04.html>. This site, which is maintained by the Library of Congress, gives you access to federal legislative information on the web.

Order Your Updated COHHIO Directory of Services

COHHIO's Directory of Services, a listing of non-profit housing organizations and homeless service providers in Ohio, is available. The Directory is organized by county and lists over 900 programs that serve homeless Ohioans as well as provide housing and economic development opportunities for other low-income families and individuals. 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: 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138; (614) 280-1984. Federal Identification No.: 31-1189029

Housing Trust Fund Thank-Yous

Thanks to those listed below who made the dedicated source of revenue for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund possible. These are folks who wrote letters, made calls, contacted the media, participated in the legislative breakfast and/or worked the issue on a local level or within their own venues. Since it was impossible for us to track everyone who helped out, we would appreciate hearing from you if your name was omitted so you can be recognized in the next issue of the newsletter. Please e-mail cathyjohnston@cohhio.org with your name.

Special thanks to the Ohio CDC Association and the Ohio Housing Council leadership, board and members who were truly our partners in this historic effort.

Theresa Adair-Singleton
 Dr. J. Scott Adams
 Barbel Adkins
 Kelly Ailes
 Tom Albanese
 Bob Alexander
 Tom Allio
 Tanya Allmond
 Amethyst of Columbus residents
 John Anoliefo
 Don Antonellis
 Grady Appleton
 Gloria Avery-Prease
 Janice Bailey
 Colleen Bain-Gold
 Carrie Baker
 Rob Baker
 Patricia Barnes
 Caren Bauer
 Bambi Baughn
 Betty Baumgartner
 Pamela Bayer
 Andria Beach Knox Perkins
 Noreen Beatty
 Carole Beaty
 Kathy Becker
 Kent Beittel
 Mary Beittel

Jim Bentley
 Rose Berbari
 Sister Elaine Berkopec
 Bob Boardman
 Robert Boldman
 Kenneth Bordwell
 Rose Ann Braniff
 Larry Bresler
 Liz Bright
 David Brightbill
 Kathy Broka
 Chip Bromley
 Jon Brown
 Mary Burke
 Nelson Burns
 Cleo Busby
 Jim Butler
 Sue Butler
 Dan Buttermore
 Molly Callahan
 Bill Carter
 Pat Cash
 Richard Castellini
 Gayle Channing-Tennebaum
 Theresa Chelikowsky
 Marilyn Cipollone
 Larry Clayman
 Pat Clifford

COHHIO Recognized for its Work on Balance-of-State Continuum of Care

Late last month, the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its work over the past eight years on the Balance-of-State Continuum of Care application process. At the Ohio Conference of Community Development's (OCCD's) Annual Meeting held in Sandusky, the Ohio Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) presented COHHIO with an award "for its work on behalf of the homeless and other special needs populations throughout the state. Through its technical assistance efforts and pursuit of resources and policy improvements, COHHIO has helped assure that Ohio's most vulnerable residents are effectively served." Since the process was launched in 1996, Ohio's Balance-of-State Continuum of Care has funneled nearly \$45 million in homeless assistance funds into the state's rural counties. This work could not have been possible without the dedication and active support of the Ohio Department of Development (more specifically that of Bob Johnson with the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships). COHHIO would also like to congratulate both Findlay Hope House for the Homeless as well as the Summit County Housing Network on their Governor's Excellence Awards. In addition to getting their pictures taken with the Lieutenant Governor, both programs were honored at the OCCD Annual Meeting. Hats off!

Breaking Ground

Charles Cloak
Elaine Coffy
Phil Cole
Judy Coleman
Michele Colopy
Teresa Cook
Chester Cooper
Joe Copeland
John Corlett
Don Corley
David Craft
Damella Cummings
Judith Cunningham
Latanya Cunningham
Rob Curry
Vince Curry
Clement Cybulski
Diana M. Cyganovich
Roger Cykowski
Lynn Dalton
Terrence Dalton
Darryl Darby
Mary Davis
Jan DeGraff
Jennie Dennison-Budak
Susan Dersch
Leonard Dillon
Amanda Dixon
Judy Dixon
Bill Dodson
Catherine Donnelly
Toni Dosik
Jim Downing
Karen Dresser
Carol Duncan
Kathy Durand
Margaret Egbert
Trudy Elder
Bob Erickson
Cyndi Evans
Jerry Everhart
Jennifer Farmer
Cindy Farson
Terri Fetherolf
Christy Fletcher
Mike Foley
Pam Foster
Bethany Foutty
Denise Fox
Angie Franklin
Brian Freidman
David Fynn
George Garchar
Craig Garrison
Georgine Getty
Rev. Jeff Gill
Brian Gillooly
Steve Gladman
Ann Goebel
Marti Goetz
Brenda Goodwin
Merle Gordon
Frank Gorman
Lynn Goza
Tammy Greene

Hugh Grefe
Nichole Grimwood
Colleen Haines
SeMie Hale
David L. Hall
Shane Hankins
Sue Hanson
Linda Hartlaub
Sister Sharon Havelak
Paul Henley
Maryellen Hess
Gina Hinshaw
Bruce Hitchcock
John Hoover
John Hopkins
Linda Hudecek
Joyce Huntley
Rita Hutchinson
Michael James
Sister Susan Javorek
Melissa Jeter
Lisa Johnson
Chuck Jones
Chip Joseph
Vicki Kane
Kathy Kazol
Hal Keller
Nina Keller
Robert Kelley
Gregory Kiger
Inez Killingsworth
Inna Kinney
Kathy Kizer
Jim Klein
Major Guy D. Klemanski
Sharon Kleppel
Ralph Kline
Wayne Koehler
Dr. Thomas Korllos
Linda Kramer
Kendra Krebs-Wincenty
Laurel Labadie
Kevin Labb
Kris LaHote
Jack Laverty
Michael Leatherbury
Kim Leininger
Mark Lenear
Debra Linn
Rebecca Litwiler
Chris Lohrman
Marna Lombardi
Donald Love
Mark Lovett
Roy Lowenstein
Laura Lucas
Sally Luken
Cheryl Luterzo
Danielle Lutz
Marianne MacQueen
Jim McCarthy
Roger McCauley
Kristin McCloud
Angie McConnel

Keith McCormish
Mark McDermott
Karen McLeod
Gail McNerney
Sr. Patricia McNicholas
Sue Madden
Michael Marsh
Shelley Marsh
Brian Martin
Christine Matusik-Plas
Daisy Mercardo-Vega
Carrie Maxwell Pocock
Debbie Mays
Nelson Meyer
Daisy Mercardo-Vega
Reverend David Meredith
Darryl Miles
Jill Miller
Don Mitchell
Kate Monter-Durban
Cheryl Moreno-Denny
Tammy Mott
Edward Neuhausel
Teresa Nieberding
Ron Nisch
Alvin Norris
Sharon Nunn-Alexander
Virginia O'Keeffe
Marty Orr
Joan Patel
Tina Patterson
Kim Peek
Julie Perie
Erin Petrovey
Mary Helen Petrus
India Pierce-Lee
Daniel Pinciario
Allan Pintner
Jock Pitts
Barbara Poppe
Eric Preuss
Kenneth Radigan
Sister Loretta Rafter
Karen Rainey
Sylvia Ray-Taylor
Susan Reamsnyder
Ron Reinhardt
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Phil Smith
Katrina Spellman
Kay Spergel
Brenda Sperry
Phil Starr
Alicia Stefano
Susan Stiles
Thomas Stone
Hilda Stotts
Don Strasser
Tom Stricker
Daniel Swan
Craig Tames
Denise Tarver
Jane Taylor
Yvonne Taylor
Deb Tegtmeyer
Chuck Thayer
Cheryl Thiessen
Jim Tobin
Melva Tolbert
Sarah Torsell
Steve Torsell
Linda Trapp
Rochelle Twining
Mike Tynan
Deb Vas
Janet Verthe
Roger Vickers
Sue Villio
Doug Wagener
Nafisa Wali
Kylee Wallick
Mikelann Ward-Rensel
Vic Ward
Judith Warren
Tracey Weaver
William Whitney
Sister Rose Wildenhaus
Melissa Will
Joyce Willis
DeMara Wilson
Glenda Withrow
Jeff Woda
Christine Woodie
Ron Woolwine
YEP Councils
Fred Zawilinski
Marsha Zayac
Theodore Ziegler

If we missed you, please e-mail us and let us know at cathyjohnston@cohhio.org

Reducing Housing Cost Burdens Through EITC

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can be improved to help individuals and families manage high housing costs according to a new paper released by The Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy. Because the EITC program can increase a qualified worker's annual income, it can have the effect of alleviating severe housing cost burdens by reducing the proportion of the household income that is spent for housing.

The authors argue that by tying the value of the EITC to reflect the median housing costs, the EITC program can be more effective in reducing the number of individuals and families with severe rent burdens. While this proposal would require Congressional legislation, the authors argue that simply ensuring that all eligible individuals and families receive the benefit would help alleviate the strain of high housing costs for many.

The authors estimate that full participation in the EITC program would reduce the number of families with severe rental burdens by 700,000. Between 2.3 and 3.4 million low-income workers who are eligible to receive the EITC benefit do not do so. These eligible workers disproportionately reside in four states: California, Texas, New York and Florida. Many who are failing to receive the benefit are single adults, who are often renters and who tend to be poorer than workers claiming the credit. Many of these workers will experience high housing costs that the EITC could help meet. The authors note the national average value of the unclaimed EITC benefit is \$85 a month though the average value of the unclaimed credit was higher in several cities with high housing costs (e.g. \$111 a month in Los Angeles).

The authors also suggest that individuals and families use the advance payment option offered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This would allow EITC recipients to receive the benefit throughout the year rather than in one lump sum payment. This would help families incorporate the additional resources in their monthly budget and meet regular expenses, such as housing costs.

To view a copy of this report and learn more about how the EITC program can be improved to help address the housing affordability crisis, visit www.brookings.edu/es/urban/publications/stegmanhousing.pdf. To learn more about how your organization can help increase utilization of the EITC among eligible low-income workers, visit www.cbpp.org/eic2003/index.html.

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!

As Homelessness Increases, Number of Laws Targeting Homeless People Rise

In Milwaukee, a church has been declared a public nuisance for feeding homeless people and allowing them to sleep there. In Gainesville, police threatened University of Florida students with arrest if they did not stop serving meals to homeless people in a public park. In Santa Barbara, it is illegal to lean against the front of a building or store, and no one can park a motor home on the street in one place for more than two hours.

These ordinances and activities demonstrate the increasingly hostile attitude in the United States toward people who are homeless, according to a report by the National Coalition for the Homeless that was released in early August. This report examines occurrences since January 2002 and documents civil rights violations perpetrated against people experiencing homelessness.

With the highest unemployment rates in almost a decade, more people are becoming homeless, and as the economy continues to tighten, it is causing financial crises for shelters and service-providing agencies. Though nearly all cities still lack sufficient shelter beds and social services, many continue to pass laws prohibiting people experiencing homelessness from sleeping outside.

Almost 70 percent of the cities surveyed in the first report have passed at least one or more new laws specifically targeting homeless people since January 2002, making it increasingly difficult to survive on the streets. Cities are attempting to make it illegal to perform life-sustaining activities in public, while at the same time refusing to allocate sufficient funds to address the causes of homelessness.

This 2003 report finds Las Vegas, San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles, and Atlanta to be the top five "meanest" cities in the United States for poor and homeless people to live in; California is the "meanest" state, followed by Florida as the second "meanest." Cincinnati was listed as the sixth "meanest" city.

The National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project (NHCROP) — a project of the National Coalition for the Homeless comprised of local advocates in communities across the country — has compiled quantitative and qualitative data samplings from 147 communities in 42 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. These cities represent rural, urban, and suburban areas in all geographic and demographic varieties across the United States.

"Instead of the compassionate responses that communities have used to save lives in the past two decades, the common response to homelessness is to criminalize the victims through laws and ordinances that make illegal life-sustaining activities that people experiencing homelessness are forced to do in public," said Donald Whitehead, Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, who is himself formerly homeless.

As it becomes increasingly difficult to afford housing, this country is turning to jails instead of creating affordable housing. These individuals and families are arrested for committing such illegal acts as sitting or standing on sidewalks and napping in parks. Whitehead stated, "At the national level, we see a relationship between municipalities' efforts to make homelessness a crime and the increases in hate crimes and violent acts directed at homeless people in those cities."

Brian Davis, Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, said, "Imagine, the loneliness and feeling of helplessness, when every shelter is full and then the city's police force adds insult to injury by confiscating all your belongings or issues a ticket for sleeping in a park. It takes a special person to be able to cope with the daily struggle to survive while the city government throws added barriers into your path toward stability." For more information, visit www.nationalhomeless.org/hatecrimes03.html.

10 Meanest Cities

1. Las Vegas
2. San Francisco
3. New York City
4. Los Angeles
5. Atlanta
6. Cincinnati
7. Key West
8. Austin
9. Orlando
10. New Orleans

Meanest States

1. California
2. Florida

Percentage of Cities Banning Activities

Obstruction of Sidewalks/Public Places	89.4
Closure of Particular Public Places	69.1
Loitering in Particular Public Places	55.3
Begging in Particular Public Places	53.2
Urination/Defecation in Public	53.2
Sleeping in Particular Public Places	51.1
"Aggressive" Panhandling	50.0
Camping in Particular Public Places	47.9
Sitting/Lying in Public Places	44.7
Bathing in Public Waters	38.3
Begging City-wide	30.9
Camping City-wide	26.6
Sleeping City-wide	19.1
Loitering City-wide	19.1

HUD Releases Draft Version of HMIS Data Standards

After nearly two years of waiting, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has finally released draft data standards for Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). The draft standards were published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, July 22nd. The draft standards are divided into two pieces (universal data elements and program-level data elements).

The universal data elements are to be collected from all clients served by all programs reporting to the HMIS. These elements include:

- Name
- Social security number
- Date of birth
- Ethnicity and race
- Gender
- Veteran status
- Residence prior to program entry
- Zip code of last permanent address
- Month and year left last permanent address
- Program entry date
- Program exit date
- Unique person identification number*
- Program identification number*
- Program event number*
- Household identification number*
- Children's questions

* represents data elements that will be generated by the HMIS

The program-level data elements are to be collected from clients served by programs that include an assessment of the client's needs as a basic element in their provision of service. These elements include:

- Income and sources
- Non-cash benefits
- Physical disability
- Developmental disability
- General health status
- Pregnancy status
- HIV / AIDS status
- Behavioral health status
- Domestic violence
- Education
- Veterans
- Services received
- Destination
- Follow-up after program exit
- Children's education
- Other children's questions

In addition to the draft data standards, HUD has also identified emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and outreach programs that receive McKinney-Vento funding as the first priority to bring on-line.

If you are interested in downloading a copy of the Federal Register notice (FR-4848-N-01), please visit www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/index.cfm.

Please note that there is a public comment period (which ends on September 22nd), through which one can "encourage" HUD to make changes to the proposed standards.

On a related note, COHHIO along with the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OCHP) has initiated the pilot implementation phase for the Balance-of-State HMIS. The ten pilot sites should be on-line by October 1st, 2003. For more information, contact Rick Taylor at ricktaylor@cohhio.org or 614/280-1984.

Youth Issues

- *Alliance Expands Online Resources on Ending Youth Homelessness.* The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has developed a web resource on Ending Youth Homelessness, which features brand new best practices around preventing and ending youth homelessness, the latest information on appropriations and reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and numerous links to recent research and resources focused on youth homelessness. For more information, visit www.endhomelessness.org/youth. To get involved in Alliance efforts to end homelessness among youth, contact Mishaela Durán at mduran@naeh.org

- *Improving Services for Disconnected Youth.* This month, the Center for Law and Social Policy released "Leave No Youth Behind: Opportunities for Congress to Reach Disconnected Youth." The report offers recommendations to help disconnected youth in six programs being considered by the 108th Congress for reauthorization: the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Workforce Investment Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Act. To access the 110-page report, go to www.clasp.org/DMS/Documents/1057083505.88_Youth.pdf.

National Housing Trust Fund - Ohio Endorsers

Please check the list below. If your agency hasn't endorsed the National Housing Trust Fund, please do so now. For more information, visit www.nhtf.org.

Ohio Congressional Delegation cosponsors:

Representative Sherrod Brown
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Organizational Endorsers:

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 Akron Area Association of Churches
 Akron Area Board of Realtors
 Akron Community Health Resources
 Akron Health Department
 Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
 Akron Planning Department
 Akron-Summit Community Action Agency, Inc.
 Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity
 Alpha Phi Alpha Homes
 American Home Buyers
 Amethyst
 Area Agency on Aging
 Astabula County Community Housing Development Organization
 Avondale/Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation
 Bank One
 Barberton Area Community Ministries
 Battered Women's Shelter
 Bethany House Services
 Broad Street Bully Productions
 Buckeye Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Carver Park Local Advisory Council
 Catholic Charities Health & Human Services
 Catholic Commission
 Catholic Social Services of Summit County
 Charter One Bank
 Christmas In April
 City Councilor Charleta B. Fvares, Columbus
 Clemont County Community Services
 Cleveland City Council
 Cleveland Housing Network
 Cleveland Neighborhood Development Corporation
 Cleveland Tenants Organization
 Cleveland-Cuyahoga Counties Office of Homeless Services
 Clinton County Community Action Program, Inc.
 Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
 Coleman Professional Services
 Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
 Community Action Harmony House
 Community Health Center
 Community Legal Aid
 Community Shelter Board
 Community Support Services, Inc.

Congregation of Sisters of Saint Joseph
 Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
 Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland County Corp
 Crossroads
 Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners
 Daybreak
 Diocesan Social Action Office of Cleveland
 Drop Inn Center
 East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation
 Emergency Assistance Services, Catholic Charities
 Emmanuel Community Care Center
 Environmental Health Watch
 Every Women's House
 F.A.C.E.S. of Stark County
 Fair Housing Advocates Association
 Fair Housing Contact Services
 Famicos Foundation
 Family and Community Services of Portage, Inc.
 Family House
 Fifth Third Bank
 Findlay Hope House for the Homeless, Inc.
 First Grace Hunger Program
 First Merit Bank
 Firststar Bank
 Forest City Residential Group
 Founders Path, Inc.
 Franciscan Friars, St. John Baptist Province
 Franciscan Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania
 Friends of the Homeless, Inc.
 Glenville Development Corporation
 Greater Akron Committee for Better Housing
 Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless
 H.M. Life Opportunity Services
 Habitat for Humanity of Dayton
 Hancock County ADAMH Services Board
 Harvard Community Services Center
 Help End Lead Poisoning (HELP) Coalition of Ohio
 HELP Foundation, Inc.
 HHWP Community Action Commission
 Homebuilders Association of Greater Akron
 Housing Network
 Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.)
 Humility of Mary Housing Ministry
 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cleveland
 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Springfield
 Interfaith Hospitality Network of Toledo
 International Institute
 Jefferson County Community Action Council, Inc.
 Jireh Services, Inc.
 Justice Committee of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Cleveland
 Key Bank
 League of Women Voters of the Akron Area
 LEAP/Center for Independent Living)
 Legacy III, Inc.

Licking County Coalition for Housing
Lifeline for the Empowerment & Development of Consumers
Lighthouse Youth Services
Lima Allen County Housing Consortium
Lima / Allen Council on Community Affairs
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Toledo
Lorain County Community Action Agency, Inc.
Lorain County Task Force for the Homeless
Mary Magdalen House
Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity
May Dugan Center
Mayor Rhine McLin, Dayton
Metropolitan Strategy Group
Miami Purchase Preservation Fund
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.
Mosyjowski & Associates Engineers
Moundbuilders Guidance Center
NAMI of Marion / Crawford Counties
National Church Residences
National City Bank
National Organization for Women, Columbus Chapter
Nazareth Housing Development Corporation
NCS of Barberton
Neighborhood Development Corporations Association
Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield
Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, Inc.
Neighborhood Properties
Neighborhoods In Partnership, Inc.
New Home Development 6
North Coast Community Homes
North River Development Corporation
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Northeastern Neighborhood Development Corporation
Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
Oberer Residential Construction
Oberlin City Council
Oberlin Community Services
Ohio Community Development Finance Fund
Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers
Ohio Council of Churches
Ohio Public Interest Research Group
Ohio Savings Bank
Ohio West Area United Methodist Church
Onyx Community Development Corporation
Onyx, Inc.
Operation Safety Net - Scioto County Homeless Shelter
Over-the-Rhine Housing Network
Portage Area Development Corporation
Portage Area Transitional Housing
Race Street Tenant Organization Cooperative (ReSTOC)
Richland County Homeless Coalition
S&L Properties
SAFE Landing

Saint Rita Parish Social Concerns Committee
Salvation Army PASS Program
Second National Bank
Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine
Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Cincinnati
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio
Snyder & Snyder Realty
Someplace Safe, Inc.
South Lorain Community Development Corporation
St. Mary Development Corporation
St. Rita Parish Social Concerns Committee
STEPS (Substance Abuse, Treatment, Education and Prevention)
Summit County Children's Services Board
Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development
Summit County Housing Trust Fund
Summit Housing Development Corporation
Summit Twin Oaks Realty
The Contact Center
The Other Place
Third Federal Savings
Tom Geiger Guest House
Tom Geiger Guest House, Inc.
Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.
United Auto Workers Locals 101; 105; 1112; 118; 12; 122; 128; 14; 161; 169; 1714; 176; 2000; 211; 217; 2332; 294; 336; 366; 393; 402; 420; 425; 486; 493; 497; 533; 538; 549; 573; 70; 86; 863; 91; 913; 969
United Church of Christ
United Way of Richland County
Universal Health Care Action Network
University Park Neighborhood Association / UPDC
Veterans Services Outreach Referral Program
Volunteers of America Crossroads
Volunteers of America, Ohio River Valley
Wayne County Housing Coalition
Welfare Rights Coalition
Westside Council of Block Clubs
Westside Neighborhood Development Corporation
Westside Rental Housing Collaborative
Wings Enrichment Center
Women's Connection
YWCA Interfaith Hospitality Network of Columbus
YWCA of Columbus
YWCA of Greater Cleveland
Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority

If your organization is not on this list, please go to www.nhtf.org and get more information about how to endorse the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio Seeks Education and Outreach Coordinator

Purpose: Assists in carrying out the day-to-day activities associated with informing and educating the public (with an emphasis on traditionally underserved populations) about their rights and responsibilities under the Federal Fair Housing Act. These activities include addressing specific barriers to fair housing choice such as mortgage lending discrimination and abusive or predatory mortgage lending practices. The Education and Outreach Coordinator reports to the Managing Director.

Qualifications: Position requires experience in working with issues related to community re-investment and/or fair housing/fair lending. Must have strong public speaking and written communication skills. Must be able to work independently, must be both a team leader and team player. Bachelor’s degree required.

Primary Responsibilities:

Education & Outreach: Responsible for conducting activities (i.e. facilitating seminars/forums, distributing fair housing/fair lending materials, and referring complaints to the U.S. Department of Housing and urban Development) targeted specifically at addressing barriers to fair housing choice.

Organizing: Assists in organizing support for strong, new consumer protections from abusive or predatory lenders. Provide regular communications regarding COHHIO’s advocacy agenda regarding predatory lending through list serves, newsletter articles, etc. Provide staff assistance related to advocacy to the COHHIO work groups as needed. Continually use issue base organizing as a means to build power and membership for COHHIO.

Operational Support: Participate on the COHHIO fundraising committee. Provide staff support to the Managing Director in development and implementation of the COHHIO conference. Provide staff support to Board committees as assigned.

Other: such duties as may be assigned by the Managing Director.

Supervision and Compensation: The Education and Outreach Coordinator reports to the Managing 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.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Attn: Rick Taylor
35 East Gay Street, Suite 210
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Telephone and electronic inquiries will not be accepted.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio Seeks Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Support Coordinator

Purpose: Assists in the development and implementation of Ohio’s Balance-of-State Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) activities. This position will work closely with the HMIS Project Manager, the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator, and the Data Analyst/Programmer employed by the Ohio Department of Development – Office of Housing and Community Partnerships. The HMIS Support Coordinator reports to the Managing Director.

Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience in Information Technology (IT) field. Knowledge of and experience with relational database management and database administration preferred. Knowledge of Microsoft Windows, Office, and Access essential. Ability to troubleshoot and resolve software and hardware problems. Proven excellence in both written and oral communication required. Ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines necessary. Familiarity with general accounting principles required. Experience working in a not-for-profit setting with significant information reporting requirements strongly preferred.

Primary Responsibilities:

Homeless Management Information Systems: Responsible for supporting the development and implementation of Ohio’s Balance-of-State HMIS System. Provides support to the participating agencies in helping them gain access to the system (i.e. facilitating the purchase and installation of necessary hardware), use of the software (i.e. troubleshooting and connection problems), helping create custom reports and queries, helping train new staff members, help train when new features are added, and facilitation HMIS user group activities.

Technical Assistance to Participating Agencies: Responsible for supporting the provision of training and technical assistance to participating agencies. Provide user support for ServicePoint software, problem diagnosis and resolution, routine software and information maintenance. Provides support by phone, e-mail, or on site as appropriate.

Administration: Responsible for ensuring that all participating agencies have access to and are able to use the software for its intended purpose. Oversee and monitor the purchase and installation of hardware (i.e. computers, printers, internet access, networking, etc.) for participating agencies. Works in collaboration with OHCP to monitor the installation and dissemination of software (i.e. user licenses). Provides support to and input on Balance-of-State HMIS policy as necessary. Responsible for developing and managing a demand / response process whereby participating agencies request assistance in implementing the Balance-of-State HMIS System.

Supervision and Compensation: The HMIS Support Coordinator reports to the Managing 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.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to:

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Attn: Rick Taylor
35 East Gay Street, Suite 210
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Telephone and electronic inquiries will not be accepted.

NEWS BRIEFS...

HHS Helps Define "Covered Entity" under HIPAA

Over the last year, many providers have become increasingly familiar with the term HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). The state's HMIS system, which is slated to be in place by October 2004, will allow for the collection and dissemination of information related to the needs of homeless persons. While providers are just warming up to HMIS they are finding themselves with a new encumbrance, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA. HIPAA came about in response to concerns surrounding medical privacy. Unless one is a "covered entity" under HIPAA, however, the buck should stop with HMIS. To aid in making the determination as to whether your organization is a "covered entity", the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed a simplistic, yet useful, evaluation tool. For more information, visit www.hhs.gov.

HUD and Department of Labor Announce Joint NOFA

Late last month, and as part of its ongoing effort to coordinate mainstream programs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a \$13.5 million partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to expand the delivery and implementation of customized employment strategies for persons experiencing long-term homelessness. HUD is providing \$10 million and DOL is contributing \$3.5 million toward this joint initiative. This announcement is the latest of the Bush Administration's goal of ending long-term homelessness in ten years, and follows on the Samaritan Initiative rolled out earlier this year. The DOL portion of each grant agreement will range from approximately \$500,000 to \$625,000 and is designed to increase and improve employment opportunities for persons with disabilities who are experiencing long-term homelessness. In addition, HUD will provide approximately \$2-3 million grants for housing this population. The deadline is August 20th, 2003. For additional information, please visit the HUD web page at www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr03-080.cfm.

Covering Kids & Families

There are more than 41 million uninsured Americans, including 8.5 million children. Most of these children are eligible for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), but are not enrolled. Covering Kids & Families, a national initiative of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is reaching out to connect these children and their families to available health care coverage. This July, Covering Kids & Families will launch Back-to-School 2003, an annual campaign that informs families about available health care coverage and encourages them to put enrolling their children in Medicaid or SCHIP at the top of their back-to-school checklist. Back-to-School will include hundreds of outreach and enrollment activities all across the country. The campaign will also use public service advertising, media outreach, and corporate and organizational partnerships to get the word out that there is help available for these hard-working families and their children. Organizations interested in being a part of the Back-to-School 2003 initiative should visit www.coveringkids.org.

Improving PHAs, Response to Survivors of Domestic Violence

HUD has released a new chapter for the Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook that focuses on how public housing authorities (PHAs) should respond to domestic violence among their tenants. HUD encourages local PHAs to explore preferences for survivors of domestic violence and to begin to develop collaborative relationships with local domestic violence providers to enhance services to tenants. The Guidebook also suggests that PHAs use their discretion wisely to ensure that survivors of domestic violence aren't inappropriately denied access to housing or are evicted due to acts committed by their perpetrator. To view the Guidebook in its entirety, visit the National Housing Law Project website at www.nhlp.org/html/pubhsg/phguidebook.pdf.

Change In Auditing Threshold

The threshold that triggers the requirement for audits of federal awards (single audits) has been raised from \$300,000 to \$500,000 under new revisions to OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations. The rule is generally effective for fiscal years ending after December 31, 2003. For more on the new threshold, visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/062703_audits.pdf.

Legislative Database

The LINC project, Western Regional Welfare Activist Network, and the National Welfare Engine have joined together to provide a faster, easier and simple way to find good bills to introduce to your state legislature. In this database you will find good welfare and anti-poverty bills on caregiving, education, and stopping the time clock. Just check the category you are interested in, read summaries of the bills, find contact and status information and download the bill for your own use. It is a good resource to find and develop legislation based on previous models. For more information, visit www.lincheroes.org/wrwan.

Policy Papers Now Available

The National Alliance to End Homelessness, Corporation for Supportive Housing and AIDS Housing of Washington have developed a policy manual to guide advocates and Federal lawmakers on homelessness policy. The manual was created in conjunction with the New Partnerships for Ending Homelessness Conference, which was held in Washington DC in July.

Congress is in the midst of deciding funding levels for various programs for next year. The manual describes the programs that are important to ending homelessness, and recommendations are made as to the appropriate level of funding. Analysis of relevant new legislation is also included. Among the topics covered are:

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs
- Ending Long-term Homelessness Services Initiative
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
- National Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Runaway and Homeless Youth programs
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

To view an electronic copy of the document, visit www.endhomelessness.org/pol/PolicyPapers03.pdf.

The Relationship Between Housing Assistance, Homelessness and Welfare

"I feel a little better now that I have the key to my own place."

A recently published study examined the housing, employment and earnings trajectories of 139 homeless families who had participated in a Boston area support services program. The study, *"Surviving Against the Odds: Families, Journeys off Welfare and out of Homelessness"* by Donna Haig Friedman, Tatjana Meschede, and Michelle Hayes, provides further testimony to the critical role housing subsidies can play in ending homelessness for families. Prior to entering shelter, one third of the families had been doubled up, and another third had lived in another emergency shelter program. The average length of stay in shelter before exiting was 9.9 months, though the range was substantial - from one month to 29 months. At shelter exit, 86 percent of families had a housing subsidy, 7 percent moved to market rate housing and 4 percent moved in with families or friends. At follow-up, six to twelve months post shelter exit, 88 percent of the families were renting with a housing subsidy, 4 percent were in market rate housing and 2 percent were living with family or friends. This mirrors findings from other studies that have demonstrated that homeless families that have access to a housing subsidy can and will remain stably housed. Nearly all of the families that were interviewed as part of the study emphasized the important role housing assistance played for their family. The researchers also examined the family's work participation and earnings. At follow-up, six to twelve months after exiting shelter, 50 percent of all families were reliant on employment earnings alone and 61 percent relied on a combination of employment earnings and income assistance. Nearly a third of the families remained reliant solely on welfare benefits (or become solely reliant on welfare due to a job loss). The researchers found those families faced significant barriers to employment and, while housing assistance allowed them to remain housed, their situations were more precarious than the families who were employed. To get more information about this study and other recent research on the intersection of housing assistance, homelessness and welfare, published in the most recent edition of "Cityscape" visit www.huduser.org/periodicals/cityscape/vol6num2/current.html.

Housing Development Assistance Program - Revised Calendar of Deadlines

In order to move the applications for the non-housing credit round closer to the time that funds will be available, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency has revised the calendar for these applications.

Below are the revised deadlines:

- February 2, 2004 - Applications due
- February 20 - Agency Notification of Public Notification Deficiencies
- March 2 - Applicant Response Deadline for Public Notification Deficiencies
- April 9 - Agency Notification of Threshold Deficiencies
- April 16 - Applicant Response Deadline for Threshold Deficiencies
- May 21 - Results of Competitive/Financial Underwrite Released
- May 28 - Applicant Response Deadline for Underwriting Deficiencies
- June 1 - Agency Notification of Recommendation to Controlling Board
- July 1 - Funding Agreements Issued

For more information, contact Karen Banyai, Affordable Housing Programs Manager at 614/752-4185 or kbanyai@odod.state.oh.us.

Resources

EVENTS

- *Building Doctor Clinics*. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is offering two-day free clinics: August 28-29 - Cincinnati; and October 23-24 - Centerville. The clinics are designed to help solve common old building problems and help owners make informed repair and improvement decisions. Old buildings are defined as structures built before 1950. Each clinic begins with a seminar about roof repair, window replacement, alterations, and additions. The next day the building doctors tour ailing buildings within five miles of the host community to examine problems and prescribe cures. Interested participants must register to attend a clinic or request a visit by the building doctors. Contact OHPO at 800/499-2470 or visit their web page at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/programs/builddocregistration.html.
- *Beyond Basic Skills: Intermediate Level Training in Affordable Housing Development and Finance*, Ohio CDC Association. August 25-27 - Advanced Specification Writing in Affordable Housing; September 29-October 1 - Advanced Rehabilitation Construction Management; and October 28-30 - Advanced Development Strategies for Affordable Housing. For more information, contact Craig Spadafore at Ohio CDC Association at 614/461-6392 or at cspadafore@ohiocdc.org.
- August 20 - *Taking the Plunge: Introduction to Micro Lending*, Ohio CDC Association, Columbus. For more information, contact Craig Spadafore at Ohio CDC Association at 614/461-6392 or at cspadafore@ohiocdc.org.
- August 20 - *Working Together to Change the Face of Homeownership - Effective Tools and Strategies for Reaching Minority Markets*, Neighborhood Reinvestment Training Institute, Washington, DC. For more information, call 800/438-5547 or email nrti@nw.org.
- September 17 - 19 - *Ohio CDC Association Annual Conference*, Dayton. For more information, contact Celia Elkins, at celkins@ohiocdc.org or at 614/461-6392.
- September 21-24 - *Addressing the New Challenges, The Changing Face of Addictions & Mental Health Treatment*, Great Lakes Conference on Addictions & Mental Health, Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.greatlakesconference.org.
- October 8 - *Justice is Important but Supper is Essential: What can we do to provide accessible and equitable services and opportunities to All Persons Living in Our City?*, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless. Third annual public forum. \$55 (including lunch). CEU's. For more information, contact Don Strasser at 614/529-1625 or at strassed@aol.com
- October 15-17 - *Ohio Housing Conference*, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Hyatt Regency, Columbus. For more information, contact Kelly Jo Marks at kmarks@kjmpr.com or Michael Pooley at mpooley@odod.state.oh.us.
- November 19-21 - *OHCP Summit*, Office of Housing and Community Partnership and the Ohio Conference of Community Development, Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron. For more information, visit www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp. Materials will be available in September.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Video - Multifamily Division of the National Association of Home Builders*. The seven minute video refutes many of the myths cited by those who oppose rental apartment housing in their neighborhoods. NAHB suggests the report can be used to open the conversation between developers and neighborhood groups or local elected officials who might otherwise make erroneous assumptions. Available for \$20. Information is available at www.nahb.org/generic.aspx?genericContentID=5771 or contact Ann Marie Moriarty at 202/266-8350 or amoriarty@nahb.com.
- *From Locked Up, To Locked Out: Creating and Implementing Post-Release Housing for Ex-Prisoners*, AIDS Housing of Washington. Provides examples of post-release housing and services and the essential information and resources on research, policy, criminal justice, and the implications of HIV, mental illness, addiction, and women's issues in the context of reentry practice and policy. Available at www.aidshousing.org.
- *Not in My Back Yard*, Greater Baton Rouge Business Report. Looks at ways in which NIMBYism stunts the development of new housing and creates sprawl and environmental degradation. Available at www.businessreport.com.
- *Better Banking For the Poor*, Brookings Institute. Despite wholesale innovations in the banking industry, low-income households continue to be left out of the financial services mainstream. A new analysis of the banking and alternative financial services industries by Michael Barr suggests that increasing access to banking for these households could boost both family financial stability and broader societal anti-poverty efforts such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and welfare-to-work programs. Available at www.brookings.edu/urban.
- *The New Shape of Suburbia*, Urban Land Institute. Includes detailed analyses both on how to avoid community opposition and anger and how to actually mobilize supporters to testify in favor of controversial projects, along with a review of some of the unique concerns suburban citizens often have about density, social change, and "quality of life." The book can be ordered at www.uli.org, and additional articles on dealing with hostile audiences and building community acceptance for controversial projects can be found at www.gcastrategies.com.

- *America's Newest Working Families: Cost, Crowding and Conditions for Immigrants*, Center for Housing Policy at the National Housing Conference. Finds that immigrants face higher housing costs and critical housing needs more often than native-born Americans. The study finds that while immigrant working families with critical housing needs have similar family median incomes to native-born working families with such needs, they tend to settle in more expensive markets and are therefore more likely to pay higher housing prices and have incomes relatively lower to that of the local median. Additionally, these families are more likely to rent than their native-born counterparts, and are more likely to be couples with children. One especially interesting finding is that immigrants who have been in the country for a relatively long period of time continue to experience housing problems. For example, immigrant working families who arrived in the country between 1980 and 1989 currently have critical housing needs at a higher incidence than more recent immigrants. The report is available at www.nhc.org/nhchome.htm.

FUNDING

- *Fund for a Just Society* - The Unitarian Universalist Fund makes grants to groups that organize to bring about systemic change leading to a more just society, or who work with disenfranchised populations. Grants typically range between \$5,000 and \$7,000. Awards are made twice annually; the next application deadline is Sept. 15. For grant guidelines, visit www.uua.org/uufp.

- *No-Interest Loans for Rural Housing* - The Housing Assistance Council provides zero-interest financing for land acquisition and site development through its Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP). Loans of up to \$10,000 per unit are available on a competitive basis. Deadline is August 29. For more information, visit www.ruralhome.org.

- *Bank One* - Bank One supports nonprofits in the areas of economic empowerment, youth education, and community life. The initial step in applying for funding is a letter of intent. Detailed guidelines are at www.bankone.com/answers/BolAnswersSeg.aspx?top=all&segment=ABO&topic=CorporateContributions&item=.

- *Arca Foundation* - The Arca Foundation is dedicated to the pursuit of social equity and justice, supporting efforts that can affect public policy and promote an informed, organized citizenry. The next deadline for consideration is Sept. 1. To review application guidelines, visit <http://fdncenter.org/grantmaker/arca/gguide.html>.

Transforming Mental Health Care in America

A recent comprehensive report from the President's Mental Health Commission, "*Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*," looks at the state of funding for people with serious mental disabilities and considers how to improve their situations. As a part of the study, the Commission finds it is imperative to deal with the issues surrounding provision of affordable housing to people with severe mental illnesses with extremely low incomes. The study also calls for a more coherent program for dealing with issues surrounding mental health and housing. The lack of adequate, affordable housing is discussed as a major failing of the current system for helping those with mental illnesses. First, the lack of such housing for people with serious mental illnesses causes increased and unnecessary costs as people "cycle" between institutions, shelters, jails, and the streets. Second, many are living in seriously substandard housing or unnecessarily in institutions. Finally, people with serious mental illnesses are over-represented among the homeless. Adding to the problems of providing adequate housing to people with serious mental illness is that they are often ineligible for housing under current federal affordable housing programs due to their often-poor tenant histories. Housing providers themselves may discriminate against those with mental illness, making it even more difficult for people to obtain decent and affordable housing. Add to this the fact that communities often oppose supportive housing programs in their neighborhoods, and it has become very difficult to adequately house people with serious mental illnesses.

The Commission recommends that HUD, along with the Interagency Council on Homelessness, create and implement a plan designed to facilitate access to 150,000 units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless over the next ten years. The study also stresses that individuals with a history of serious mental illness should be given fair access to these units, and that actions on the federal, state, and local levels should ensure a full continuum of housing services. While the Commission's report focuses on the whole spectrum of treatment for those with mental health problems, it is notable that it places such an emphasis on the importance of adequate and affordable housing. The report makes some interesting recommendations - especially in its call for 150,000 funded permanent supportive housing units. HUD and the Department of Labor recently announced a collaborative program to offer \$13.5 million to local employment centers and housing providers to contribute to this goal. However, this initiative represents just a fraction of the need, and considerable effort and funding will be required to meet the Commission's goals.

Background on the Commission is available at www.mentalhealthcommission.gov. The report itself is downloadable from www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/reports/FinalReport/downloads/FinalReport.pdf. *page 17 of 20*

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 five days of trainings on organizational development, including issues of board development, fundraising and strategic planning. The trainings are being conducted by David Maywhoor, who has over 15 years in consulting and training, and over 32 years of experience working in non-profits, as well as other qualified experts on various workshop topics.

The registration fee is \$25 per day of training per person. Please note that the registration fee has been significantly underwritten through the support of HUD and the Ohio Department of Development. Each training has a maximum of 50 participants, which will be filled on a first come-first served basis. The registration fee includes lunch, breaks and materials. 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 30 - BOARD GOVERNANCE

Roles & Responsibilities - Will take participants through a detailed exploration of the basic Roles & Responsibilities of a nonprofit Board member, and will include an in-depth explanation of the four fiduciary duties.

Super Charge the Board Fund Raising Role - Will address the fear we all have of fund raising and provide concrete tips and techniques for helping Board members become successful at bringing new resources into your nonprofit.

October 7 - FUNDRAISING

Developing the Successful Fund Raising Plan - The Fundraising Plan should provide the road map for Board, staff and volunteers to bring ever more resources into your organization. This workshop will provide participants with sample plans and new ideas about keeping the plan on track.

Special Events - Friend Raisers or Fund Raisers - Will provide the event planner with in-depth understanding of the mechanics of successful events.

Learn the Secrets of Successful Proposal Writing - Will take participants through the research process, identifying potential funding sources; typical mistakes in reviewing grant guidelines; basic components of a good proposal; and effectively communicating with public and private funders.

October 14 - HUMAN RESOURCES

Basic HR Systems and Procedures - Will help you develop and implement safe and legal process for recruitment, hiring, evaluation, promoting, providing benefits, and termination.

How to Avoid Being Sued - Will detail techniques for implementing a fair and impartial system for establishing employee expectations and will help nonprofit managers understand the processes needed to safeguard their organization from litigation.

Volunteer Management - It's More than Stuffin' Envelopes - Will help you rethink and retool your efforts to get volunteers involved in extending the resources you have to do your important work.

October 21 - LEADERSHIP

Strategic Planning - Planning is a process, not an event. Often non-profit managers are involved in the "intuitive" planning, adjusting the flow of work on a daily basis based on the ebb and flow of each new crisis. This workshop provides proven processes for embedding effective planning in the life of the organization.

October 29 - NEW EXECUTIVE BASIC TRAINING

This intensive one-day workshop will incorporate all of the areas listed in the above workshops, as well as other topics, focused particularly on the needs of new Executive Directors.

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 registration fee has been significantly underwritten through the support of HUD and the Ohio Department of Development)

Please check which training(s) you are registering for:

____ September 30 - BOARD GOVERNANCE

____ October 7 - FUNDRAISING

____ October 14 - HUMAN RESOURCES

____ October 21 - LEADERSHIP

____ October 29 - NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BASIC TRAINING

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30 - Registration

8:30 - 12:00 - Training

12:00 - 12:45 - Lunch

1:00 - 4:30 - Training

4:30 - Adjourn

____ 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. COHHIO reserves the right to limit the number of participants per agency.

Questions? Contact COHHIO at 614-280-1984 or cohho@cohho.org.

How to Contact...

NATIONAL

- Corporation for Supportive Housing:** www.csh.org
- National Alliance to End Homelessness:** www.endhomelessness.org
- National Coalition for the Homeless:** www.nationalhomeless.org
- National Community Reinvestment Coalition:** www.ncrc.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)

UPDATED - 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.

COHHIO Staff

- Bill Faith, Executive Director - billfaith@cohhio.org
- Rebecca Bartholomew, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator - rebecca@cohhio.org
- Sofia Burd, OTAG VISTA - sofiaburd@cohhio.org
- Susan Francis, Communications and Development Coordinator - susanfrancis@cohhio.org
- Gwen Garth, AmeriCorps Leader - gwengarth@cohhio.org
- Alfred Jones, YEP Youth Advocate - alfredjones@cohhio.org
- Cathy Johnston, Special Projects and Advocacy Coordinator - cathyjohnston@cohhio.org
- Angela Lariviere, Youth Empowerment Coordinator- angelalariviere@cohhio.org
- Jason Pittman, YEP VISTA - jasonpittman@cohhio.org
- Mary Scott, AmeriCorps Program Support Administrator - maryscott@cohhio.org
- Rick Taylor, Managing Director - ricktaylor@cohhio.org
- Ande Ucubagabriel, Finance Director - andeucubagabriel@cohhio.org
- Spencer Wells, Tenant Outreach Coordinator - spencerwells@cohhio.org
- Jeannette Welsh, Housing + Services Coordinator - jeannetewelsh@cohhio.org
- Joy Willis, Administrative Assistant - joywillis@cohhio.org

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Newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)
August 2003 • Volume 8 • Issue 7. 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.