

# Breaking Ground

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

..... May 2003

## Senate Supports Recordation Fee for the Housing Trust Fund

### *Advocates Work Remains Critical*

As reported in the last issue of *Breaking Ground*, the Ohio Senate has taken up the state budget process. Housing programs left the House with some success and some disappointments. While the Housing Trust Fund was funded at \$88 million over the biennium, it was funded with general revenue funds (GRF), instead of the dedicated recording fees, and the line items remained rolled into the Housing Trust Fund. Advocates have worked very hard to convince the Senate to include the recordation fee to fund the Trust Fund and to restore the housing line items funding.

The budget process is still evolving, but according to Statehouse insiders, the recordation fee increase to fund the Housing Trust Fund will be included in the Senate substitute budget being proposed by the majority next week. This is wonderful news! However, our work is not over. The Trust Fund may still have the \$50 million annual cap and the line items remain rolled into the Trust Fund.

It is critical that local advocates continue to demonstrate support for the recordation fee and the line items with their legislators. The Senate's final budget bill will be passed the week of June 2nd. We need to make sure that support for the Trust Fund and line items is shored up over the next week.

### **The message to your Senators is:**

- 1) Remove the \$50 million annual cap, so that all money generated by the recordation fee goes to fund housing.
- 2) Restore GRF funding for the line items: 440 - Emergency Shelter Grant, 406 - Transitional Housing and 431 - CDC Grant Program.
- 3) Provide transitional funding for the line items and the Housing Trust Fund to cover the first seven months of the biennium until the recorders fees begin to flow in January of 2004. This is particularly critical if the line items do not get restored to keep our basic safety net programs operating.



Once the Senate bill is finalized, it will then move onto a conference committee, made up of members from the House and the Senate. The conference committee must reconcile the differences between the House and Senate budgets. Once that is done, the full House and Senate will vote on the revised budget and it will go to the Governor.

Advocacy efforts will remain to be critical throughout this process in June. During this time, local advocates should be contacting their local House members and asking them to support the Senate version of the budget, in regards to the Housing Trust Fund and housing line items.

Our local advocates have been working very hard over the last few months, and these efforts have been critical in building the support for Ohio's housing programs in the House and Senate. Now is not the time to slow down!

**Please continue to build support with your Senators and Representatives over the next month or so. These last efforts could be essential to our success.**

*Here's what you can do over the next few weeks:*

**By May 29th:**

**Contact your Senators and encourage them to:**

- 1) Remove the \$50 million annual cap, so that all money generated by the recordation fee goes to support housing programs.
- 2) Restore funding for the line items: 440 - Emergency Shelter Grant, 406 - Transitional Housing and 431 - CDC Grant Program.
- 3) Provide transitional funding to cover the first few months of the biennium until the recorders fees are generated.

**By mid June:**

**Contact your local Representatives** and encourage them to support the Senate version of the budget for the Housing Trust Fund and the line items.

Contact information for your Senators and your Representatives is available at [www.cohhio.org/resources/directorylegislative/LegislativeDirectoryDB/ldbsearchform.php](http://www.cohhio.org/resources/directorylegislative/LegislativeDirectoryDB/ldbsearchform.php).

Updated budget information and resource materials are available at [www.cohhio.org/campaign/HTFcampaign.html](http://www.cohhio.org/campaign/HTFcampaign.html).

Questions can be directed to Cathy Johnston at COHHIO at 614-280-1984 or at [cathyjohnston@cohhio.org](mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org).

## Bush Administration’s Voucher Proposal Would Harm Low-Income Families

The bill will radically restructure the Housing Choice Voucher program, a popular program that helps approximately 2 million families afford modest housing.

The voucher program has been embraced by advocates and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle because it is a flexible, market-based way to address the gap between what families earn and what housing costs. Low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities receive vouchers to give to private landlords that generally make up the difference between 30 percent of the household’s income and the cost of the rental unit. The federal government provides local housing authorities with vouchers to distribute to families on its waiting list.

The voucher program would be renamed Housing Assistance for Needy Families (HANF). Under the plan, the federal government would no longer have an obligation to fund individual vouchers. Instead, the program would be converted into a block grant, in which states would receive funds that they would in turn be responsible for allocating to housing authorities or other local providers.

The legislation was introduced by Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Representative Bob Ney (R-OH), each the chair of the housing subcommittee in their respective houses. Mr. Ney said he introduced the legislation “upon request of the Administration.”

The proposal has been criticized for several reasons:

- Block grants typically increase by the amount of inflation or less each year. Because housing costs have been increasing much faster than the rate of inflation, block granting the voucher program would almost certainly result in a devaluing of the program over time.
- Because the proposal would require states to serve the same number of people whether or not federal funding remains even, states would be encouraged to serve people with higher incomes (who require less of a subsidy to be able to afford housing) or to increase the amount that low-income households are required to pay each month.
- The proposal would open the way for states to impose time limits on a household’s voucher use. While time limits would presumably be an incentive for low-income households to move into work, the majority of voucher holders are either already working, or are disabled or retired. Time limits on voucher use will destabilize families and result in the movement of working families into homelessness.
- By giving states a role in the allocation of vouchers, the proposal would add an additional layer of bureaucracy to the program. It would also likely politicize the program, as states would have more of a say in determining which communities within their state received vouchers.

“With this proposal, the Administration is abdicating the federal government’s responsibility to our country’s poorest citizens,” said Sheila Crowley, President of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. “The market on its own does not provide housing for people with the lowest incomes, even if they are working, and the voucher program works to correct this market failure. What we need in this time of economic downturn is a greater federal commitment to people who cannot afford housing, not less of one.”

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 email Susan Francis at COHHIO at  
 susanfrancis@cohhio.org.

Senators John Warner and George Allen, both Republicans of Virginia, have circulated a letter warning HUD Secretary Mel Martinez that the Administration's proposed changes could harm the low income families receiving vouchers and add another layer of bureaucracy to the program. Forty other Senators signed the letter, including eight other Republicans.

More than half (53 percent) of all voucher holders are families with children. Another 40 percent are seniors or people with disabilities. Only about 1 of every 5 voucher holders receives welfare benefits. About 40 percent earn wages, while most others rely on disability or retirement income. There is a serious shortage of vouchers, and only a fraction of eligible households receive them. Most families seeking assistance face a several year wait. In larger cities, waiting lists can be as long as eight to 10 years.

The voucher program is just one of the housing programs under assault by the Administration and Congress. The Administration also proposes cuts to public housing for FY 2004, including the elimination of the HOPE VI program. In addition, the President's plan to eliminate the taxation of dividends would damage the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, which would likely produce 40,000 fewer units of housing each year were the tax plan enacted.

Already, for FY 2003, Congress approved changes to the way the voucher program is funded. For the first time, Congress chose not to renew every voucher that has been appropriated—only those already in use.

Advocates are also opposing additional tax cuts that primarily benefit wealthier Americans and that would come at the expense of social programs. Advocates support additional vouchers to move families off waiting lists and into stable housing. In addition, more than 4,100 organizations, religious leaders and elected officials from every state in the country have endorsed the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund, which would build, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million affordable homes over the next decade. National Housing Trust Fund legislation in the House currently has 187 cosponsors.

"The fact that the Administration proposes cutting housing assistance for poor people while National Housing Trust Fund legislation is moving forward so rapidly is an indication of how removed the Administration is from the plight of working families and seniors," Ms. Crowley said. "Contrary to the cuts now being proposed, now is the time to invest in housing that low income families can afford."

**ACTION NEEDED:**  
Please contact Representative Ney and Senators DeWine and Voinovich to express your opposition to this proposal.  
- Representative Bob Ney, U.S. House of Representatives, 2438 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3518; 202/225-6265 -office; 202/225-3394 - Fax; bobney@mail.house.gov  
- Senator Mike DeWine, United States Senate, 140 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202/224-2315; senator\_dewine@dewine.senate.gov  
- Senator George Voinovich, United States Senate, 317 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202/224-3353; senator\_voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov

## Less than One Percent of Illegal Housing Discrimination Reported

The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) released its annual "Fair Housing Trends Report" which collects data on reported acts of illegal discrimination nationwide. The 2003 report reveals that the highest levels of housing discrimination complaints filed in 2002 were from African Americans and people with disabilities. Race was the most commonly reported basis for housing discrimination (30 percent of all complaints), followed by disability and familial status (27 percent and 15 percent of all complaints, respectively). Complaints based on national origin discrimination comprise the next highest category of discrimination (12 percent). A total of 25,246 complaints were filed nationwide in 2002.

"This number is less than one percent of the estimated incidence of illegal housing discrimination that occurs each year in the United States," said Shanna Smith, President of the National Fair Housing Alliance. "Thirty five years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, discrimination persists virtually unchallenged. These low complaint levels signal a need for increased fair housing enforcement by the current administration."

In 1980, HUD estimated that at least two million instances of rental and sales discrimination against African American home seekers occurred annually. This estimate was based on data from HUD's national housing discrimination survey.

The 2003 Fair Housing Trends Report is based on 2002 complaint data compiled from 91 private, nonprofit fair housing agencies throughout the nation, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and 95 Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies which are state and local government agencies whose laws are substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

Recent research documents the fact that many consumers do not know their rights and that those who do are unlikely to file complaints. A HUD study released in 2002, "How Much Do We Know? Public Awareness of the Nation's Fair Housing Laws," found that one in every five people who believed they experienced housing discrimination did not know what their rights were and where to complain.

Another recent study documented the fact that, for those who do know their rights and where to complain, they are unlikely to do so because they lack confidence in the enforcement system. A 2001 George Washington University study of segregation in Washington, DC, found that, "Out of the 10.9 percent of blacks who reported that they experienced discrimination within the housing market, more than 90 percent did not take legal action, and one of the key reasons for not doing so was because they thought that nothing would come of it."

"Successful enforcement builds trust with the people who are victimized by housing discrimination. Private fair housing groups receive more complaints than all government agencies combined because fair housing centers investigate complaints quickly and secure units, damages and affirmative relief in a timely fashion. But the success of the private fair housing movement is in jeopardy," stated Ms. Smith. "HUD is only proposing \$12 million for enforcement grants for FY2004. This means that only 44 fair housing groups can be funded under a cap of \$275,000 per grant. At a minimum, HUD should use for enforcement at least \$18 million of the \$20 million it is requesting from Congress. However, if HUD was truly serious about fair housing enforcement, it would seek a substantial increase in FHAP funding in the same way it has secured increased funding for FHAP agencies," she concluded. The report is available at 202/898-1661 or www.nationalfairhousing.org.

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## ODR Accepts Supportive Housing Proposals

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is soliciting proposals for supportive housing for offenders released from prison under the supervision of the Adult Parole Authority statewide. Supportive housing will be the primary step-down/residential placement for lower risk parole and post release control who do not have an acceptable home/family placement and have few programming needs. It will also be an alternative for some higher needs offenders who do not have an acceptable home/family placement and can be served through ancillary services and other community resources. Supportive housing will be a lower cost alternative to halfway house beds. Offenders participating in supportive housing will be funded for 90 days maximum, unless supervising officer and agency petition for extension of funding. The Bureau of Community Sanctions must receive all proposals by July 28, 2003. To obtain a copy of the proposal guidelines, please contact the Bureau of Community Sanctions by telephone at 614-387-1476, or via email at alicia.handwerk@odrc.state.oh.us.

## New Coalition to End Long-Term Homelessness Kicks Off

A grassroots coalition to promote the Ending Long-Term Homelessness Services Initiative (ELHSI) kicked off in early April. Participants will be working for the implementation and funding of a new program to provide services in supportive housing targeted to people who have been homeless for long periods of time. Members of the coalition include representatives of state and local government, housing and services providers, local and national advocates, and foundations. For more information about the coalition or the initiative, contact Phyllis Gilberti at [pgilberti@naeh.org](mailto:pgilberti@naeh.org).

## COHHIO's Preserving Ohio's Affordable Housing says THANKS To The Other Place

The Other Place in Dayton generously donated eight surplus computers and monitors to COHHIO's OTAG Project. These surplus machines will be used to set up computer access for tenant councils in Dayton, using Linux based programs. The Other Place has been expanding its community outreach around housing issues in Dayton. One of TOPs VISTA members, Kathleen Edwards, has been an important participant in tenant organizing activities at The Biltmore, Bella Vista Apartments, and Holden House. Just this month, Kathleen convened the first meeting of the Dayton Coalition of Councils where tenant leaders are meeting to share information and resources...and to provide mutual support for their efforts to improve living conditions for their neighbors. The Other Place's contribution of computer hardware will speed up the coordination of efforts among these leaders and make Dayton a model for regional networking. Thanks to Kathleen, to Trudy Elder and to Tina Patterson for their efforts to find new ways to reach out to their communities.

## The 10 Nonprofit Web Sites That Every Nonprofit Should Know

Idealist.org has compiled a list of the 10 sites that they think every nonprofit in the US should know about. Here they are:

1. [www.foundationcenter.org](http://www.foundationcenter.org) - provides information about every foundation in the country. Much of this information is free, but some of it is for paying subscribers only.
2. [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) - lists financial information for 800,000 nonprofits. You can use Guidestar for research, and you can also update your organization's entry there.
3. [www.idealist.org](http://www.idealist.org) - leading nonprofit job site in the country. You can also list events, volunteer opportunities and internships, and at [www.idealist.org/consultants](http://www.idealist.org/consultants), you can find the most comprehensive directory of nonprofit consultants on the Web.
4. <http://news.gilbert.org> - provides daily news updates bridging the online and nonprofit worlds. You can read the news there, or you can subscribe for weekly email updates.
5. [www.nonprofitbasics.org](http://www.nonprofitbasics.org) - the Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership is building a resource center with lots of great information for starting, running and funding an organization.
6. [www.nonprofits.org/npofaq](http://www.nonprofits.org/npofaq) - Putnam Barber maintains the Nonprofit FAQ - an older resource center that is special because it is based on actual questions and answers posted by nonprofit managers over the years.
7. [www.networkforgood.org](http://www.networkforgood.org) - people can find volunteer opportunities, and they can also make donations to hundreds of thousands of nonprofits. Most importantly, you can use this site to add a free Donate button to your Web site.
8. [www.serviceleader.org](http://www.serviceleader.org) - a huge site covering every aspect of volunteer management, from screening, matching, record-keeping and evaluation, to legal issues, risk management and virtual volunteering.
9. [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org) - the leading resource center for all issues related to nonprofit technology. In addition, they offer steep discounts on software for nonprofits, sometimes up to 90 percent off the list price.
10. [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) - people can find volunteer opportunities all over the country by ZIP code or area of interest.

## Resources

### EVENTS

- *Building Doctor Clinics*. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is offering eight two-day free clinics: May 29-30 - Marietta; June 12-13 - Toledo; June 26-27 - Germantown; July 10-11 - Bryan; July 31 - August 1 - Lynchburg; 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](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/programs/builddocregistration.html).

- *Beyond Basic Skills: Intermediate Level Training in Affordable Housing Development and Finance*, Ohio CDC Association. May 28-30 - Essentials of Real Estate Practice in Affordable Housing; June 24-26 - Advanced Techniques for Single Family New Construction; July 14-16 - Advanced Skills for Development and Finance of Multi-Family Housing; 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](mailto:cspadafore@ohiocdc.org).

- *June 9-11 - Introduction to Single-Family Affordable Housing Development for Faith-Based and Community Based Organizations*, Ohio CDC Association, Columbus. For more information, contact Craig Spadafore at Ohio CDC Association at 614/461-6392 or at [cspadafore@ohiocdc.org](mailto:cspadafore@ohiocdc.org).

- *June 11, 2003 Community Development Policy Summit: New Approaches for Building Stronger Communities*, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. For more information, contact Jeff Gatica at [jeffrey.a.gatica@clev.frb.org](mailto:jeffrey.a.gatica@clev.frb.org) or at 513/455-4281.

- *Financial Education: What Is It and What Makes It So Important?*, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. June 17 - Dayton; June 18 - Cincinnati; June 24 - Cleveland; and June 27 - Pittsburgh. For more information, call 216/579-2846.

- *July 23-25 - Introduction to Multi-Family Affordable Housing Development for Faith-Based and Community Based Organizations*, Ohio CDC Association, Columbus. For more information, contact Craig Spadafore at Ohio CDC Association at 614/461-6392 or at [cspadafore@ohiocdc.org](mailto:cspadafore@ohiocdc.org).

### PUBLICATIONS

- *Housing: the Key to Economic Recovery*, National Association of Home Builders. Provides additional evidence of how important housing production is to local economies. Available at 800/368-5242 or [www.nahb.com](http://www.nahb.com).

- *The Vitality of America's Working Communities*, Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies. Study found that multifamily dwellings do not detract from the value of single-family homes in lower- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and that the average value of owner-occupied homes actually was highest in working communities with the most multifamily units. A summary of the report is available at [www.nw.org/network/newsRoom/pressReleases/pdf/executiveSummary.pdf](http://www.nw.org/network/newsRoom/pressReleases/pdf/executiveSummary.pdf).

- *Youth, Crime and Community Development: A Guide for Collaborative Action*, Enterprise Foundation. For community groups that need practical approaches to steering youth away from crime towards safe, productive futures. The manual provides 20 strategies, focusing on community youth development; enlightened action for troubled youth; and community-focused crime prevention. Each strategy is broken into three sections - the challenge, opportunities for action and promising initiatives - to make the manual a usable guide for community organizations looking to start youth-oriented crime prevention programs or enhance existing ones. Available at [www.enterprisefoundation.org/downloads/Youth\\_Safety\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/downloads/Youth_Safety_Manual.pdf).

- *Best Practices in Revolving Loan Funds for Rural Affordable Housing*, Housing Assistance Council. Provides case studies of four revolving loan funds for affordable rural housing, analyzing best practices and offering specific advice for organizations seeking to create similar loan funds. Available at [www.ruralhome.org](http://www.ruralhome.org).

- *2003 Advocates' Guides to Housing and Community Development Policy*, National Low Income Housing Coalition. Available at [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org) or at 202/662-1530, ext. 227.

### FUNDING

- *MetLife Foundation Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing*. Awards are presented in two categories: supportive housing and property and asset management. In each category, award winners receive unrestricted funds: \$25,000 for first place, \$15,000 for second place and \$10,000 for third place. A limited number of honorable mentions also may be awarded. To qualify for these awards, an organization must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a Tribe/Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) and a member of the Enterprise Network. An eligible project must be a single or scattered site and have a minimum of 10 dwelling units. The project can be rental, cooperatively owned or condominium units, transitional or permanent housing; and the majority of the residents it serves must earn less than 60 percent of the area median income. Projects entered in the supportive housing category must be completed, at least partly occupied and managed by the current manager for three years; in the property and asset management category, for five years. Applications must be submitted online by Monday, June 16, 2003, and supporting documentation must be mailed to The Enterprise Foundation, postmarked by that date. To learn more about the awards program, contact Sabina Cardenas of The Enterprise Foundation at 410/772.2738 or at [scardenas@enterprisefoundation.org](mailto:scardenas@enterprisefoundation.org). Download the guidelines at [www.enterprisefoundation.org/metlife](http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/metlife).

- *2003 Jim & Patty Rouse Award*, Enterprise Foundation. Given to a community-based or regional nonprofit organization or Tribe/Tribally Designated Housing Entity for excellence in community revitalization. The winner receives a \$5,000 unrestricted grant. Only Enterprise Network members are eligible. Applicants must have developed a minimum of 50 dwelling units, contributed to the community, and supported residents with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area's median income. The winner is announced at the 2003 Annual Network Conference, Nov. 5-7 in Baltimore. The application deadline is June 15. The application form is available at [www.enterprisefoundation.org/infofor/networkmembers/members/JPRouseAward/index.asp](http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/infofor/networkmembers/members/JPRouseAward/index.asp).

## Resources continued

- *The Starr Foundation* makes grants in a number of areas, and its giving in the area of human needs has been increasing. In previous years it has funded food programs for the poor, job training, literacy programs, affordable housing efforts, and programs for the disabled. There is no formal application; the foundation prefers a cover letter with financial and background information. For details, visit [www.fdcncenter.org/grantmaker/starr](http://www.fdcncenter.org/grantmaker/starr).

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### Affordable Housing Exhibit at National Building Museum

The National Building Museum is soliciting entries of well-designed subsidized housing projects for possible inclusion in an exhibition about affordable housing. Opening in January 2004, *Affordable Housing: Designing an American Asset* will both survey the history of affordable housing in America and present outstanding contemporary examples that illustrate the value of good design in creating successful communities. In order to be eligible, a project must: be completed as of September 2002; demonstrate design excellence; and meet commonly accepted standards for affordability. Material must be submitted by June 30, 2003. Inclusion of a given project in the exhibition will be at the sole discretion of the curatorial team. Material submitted for consideration will not be returned. To obtain submission forms and guidelines, please contact Chief Curator Howard Decker at [hdecker@nbm.org](mailto:hdecker@nbm.org).

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### Funding Available for Homeless Youth Programs

The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Runaway and Homeless Youth programs has an application deadline of June 9, 2003. The NOFA announcement includes the Basic Center Program for Runaway and Homeless Youth, Transitional Living Program for Youth, Street Outreach Program, and a Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration demonstration.

- The purpose of the Basic Center Program is to establish or strengthen community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families including outreach to runaway and homeless youth, temporary shelter, food, clothing, individual, group and family counseling, and aftercare services.

- The Transitional Living Program funds are used to provide transitional housing, skills training and support services for youth age 16-21 for up to 18 months with a goal of helping them achieve self-sufficiency and avoid long-term dependency on social services.

- The Street Outreach Program can be used to help fund outreach to youth living on the streets and encourage their entry into safe and appropriate shelter or housing. Services must include treatment, counseling, and information and referral. Street outreach must be connected to appropriate and available emergency shelter accommodation for youth with outreach staff able to maintain interaction with youth in the shelter.

- The Positive Youth Development State and Local Collaboration Demonstration Projects to encourage collaboration among the State and Local (or Tribal) agencies and communities to increase opportunities for positive youth development. The local community or Tribe must include an operating Runaway and Homeless Youth program.

For more information, visit [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb).

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### Regional News

*Columbus...* The Columbus Coalition for the Homeless presented a series of events for Homelessness Awareness Week which began Sunday, May 11 with a Mother's Day Brunch at Broad Street United Methodist Church and ended with a Walkathon from the Statehouse to Goodale Park for a benefit concert on Sunday, May 18. Other events for the week included an Outreach Day, Photo Exhibit, Health Information Fair and Youth and Young Adult Day.

*Findlay...* Local housing advocates from Hope House of Findlay and HHWP Community Action Commission joined with the National Low Income Housing Coalition on Tuesday, May 13 to draw attention to the need for a National Housing Trust Fund, which would be a source of revenue for preserving existing federally-assisted housing, renovating private housing rented by low-income people, and building new housing for low-income people. The goal is to help produce, rehabilitate and preserve 1.5 million housing units in the country over the next decade. The National Housing Trust Fund as proposed in HR 1102 would be partially financed by excess money at the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). For more information on the proposed trust fund visit [www.NHTF.org](http://www.NHTF.org).

*Hamilton...* Several Butler County agencies are planning a month's worth of activities in June for Homeless and Housing Awareness Month. To get more information on the planned activities, contact Kathy Becker at 513/896-7269.

## Order Your Updated COHHIO Directory of Services NOW

COHHIO's *Directory of Services*, a listing of non-profit housing organizations and homeless service providers in Ohio, is now 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. The Directory includes organizations that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, health and mental health care, shelter for youth and victims of domestic violence, fair housing counseling, housing development expertise and permanent housing.

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.

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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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send Directory To:

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

### 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!

How to Contact...

**NATIONAL**

**National Coalition for the Homeless:** [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)

**National Community Reinvestment Coalition:** [www.ncrc.org](http://www.ncrc.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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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.