

Breaking Ground

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

..... April 2004

Low-income Families in Ohio Lose Housing Under Proposed Funding Cuts

Nearly 25,000 low-income, elderly, and disabled families in Ohio could lose much or all of their federal housing assistance under funding cuts the Bush Administration has proposed in the nation's principal low-income housing assistance program.

Known as the housing voucher program or "Section 8," the program provides low-income families with vouchers that help cover the cost of obtaining modest rental housing in the private market. The President's fiscal year 2005 budget calls for cutting the voucher program by more than \$1.6 billion in 2005, with the cut rising to \$4.6 billion — or 30 percent of the entire program — by 2009.

The Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), which administer the voucher program would have their funding reduced by \$55,648,788 in 2005 and \$148,295,023 in 2009 if the cuts are approved and are distributed proportionately among state and local housing agencies across the country.

"If these cuts are approved, local voucher assistance will have to shrink by 30 percent by 2009, at a time when the shortage of affordable housing is expected to continue growing," said Bill Faith, Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio. "Many of the families that lose assistance will have to divert scarce resources from basic needs such as food and child care in order to pay the rent. Others would no longer be able to afford their current apartments. Some of these people would wind up in homeless shelters or on the street," he added.

So large are these cuts that if Ohio PHAs choose to deal with them solely by reducing the number of families they assist, they would have to cut 10,343 families from the program next year, and 24,822 from the program by 2009.

Alternatively, if Ohio PHAs choose to deal with the funding shortfall by increasing the rents that families with vouchers must pay, they would have to raise those rents by an average of \$53 per month for families in the program next year, and by an average of \$138 per month in 2009, even though most families with vouchers already have incomes far below the poverty line. Families, the elderly, and disabled individuals receiving special "enhanced" voucher assistance to remain in apartments that have left federal housing subsidy programs could face even larger rent increases.



Nationally, the proposed cuts would force housing agencies to shrink the voucher program by more than a quarter million families next year or to charge an average of \$71 per month more per family in rent.

If enacted by the Congress, this would be the first time any administration has not provided sufficient funds to renew all of the existing Section 8 vouchers in the more than 30 year history of the program. "This will result in shattering the chances of thousands of families, seniors and disabled people to find affordable housing," said Faith. "This is one of the most successful housing programs for low and moderate-income families in this country. Without this assistance, low-income families often end up living in substandard or overcrowded housing, and many become homeless" Faith noted.

The Bush Administration's budget also proposes converting the voucher program into a block grant, which would eliminate federal rules built into the program to protect voucher holders and to help make vouchers transportable from place to place.

Created in 1974, the voucher program currently assists about two million low-income families with children, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. A 2001 report by the congressionally chartered Millennial Housing Commission termed the program the "linchpin" of federal housing policy and described it as "flexible, cost-effective, and successful in its mission." A study by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Policy Development and Research staff called "Work Participation and Length of Stay in HUD-Assisted Housing" found that the typical length of stay for voucher program participants is 3.08 years. It also found that those who use vouchers for a disproportionately long period of time are mostly elderly-headed households.

COHHIO Launches New E-Advocacy Tool

March 1 marked the introduction of CapWiz to COHHIO housing advocates. CapWiz is the new on-line advocacy tool designed to make advocacy as easy as a few clicks of the mouse. We invite you to check out the "Legislative Alert" section of the COHHIO website by going to www.capwiz.com/cohhio and following the easy instructions. A sample letter has already been created for each issue. However, these letters will have more impact if you individualize them and talk about why the issue is important in your community. So it is our hope that advocates will take a few extra minutes to tailor their message.

Current issues requiring action:

- Save Section 8, contact U.S. House and Senate;
- The Penny is Important...Campaign to Protect Ohio's Future, contact Ohio lawmakers; and;
- Support the National Housing Trust Fund, contact U.S. House and Senate.

Now, when COHHIO sends out an ACTION ALERT with an important message, we will make it easier for you to contact your lawmaker. We hope this new added convenience will increase the number of people who will become engaged in advocacy.

If you would like to be included on the Housing Advocates listserve, please contact Cathy Johnston at COHHIO at 614/280-1984 or cathyjohnston@cohhio.org. Thanks for your support.

America's Neighbors: The Affordable Housing Crisis and the People it Affects

Executive Summary - from the National Low Income Housing Coalition

The true extent of the affordable housing crisis in America has not been made explicit because it is usually measured by the number of households that have housing problems. Households are composed of individual people. When all the people who live in households with housing problems are counted, we learn that the affordable housing crisis affects far more people than some other social problems that get more media and political attention.

- 95 million people, one third of the nation, had housing problems (high cost burden, overcrowding, poor quality, or homelessness) in 2001. In the same year, 41 million people, 14.6 percent of the U.S. population, did not have health insurance. Twelve percent of all people in the U.S. (33.6 million) lacked food security, meaning they did not have access to enough food for an active, health lifestyle.

- A majority of people who do not have health insurance have household incomes less than \$50,000 a year (68 percent), but the percentage of people with housing problems with household incomes less than \$50,000 is even higher: 78 percent.

- 65 million people with housing problems are low income as defined by federal policy (household income at or less than 80 percent of the area median). They make up 24 percent of the U.S. population and two-thirds of the people with housing problems.

- 78 percent of extremely low-income people (household income at or less than 30 percent of the area median) have housing problems. This totals 23 million people, nearly one-tenth (8.6 percent) of all people in the United States.

- Housing cost burden is the most frequently experienced housing problem. 87 percent of low income people in households with housing problems have a high housing cost burden.

- The most severe housing costs burden are experienced by the lowest income people. 61 percent of low income people with severe housing cost burdens (spending over half of household income on housing) are extremely low income.

- Homeownership does not insulate low income people from housing problems. There are 30.2 million low income people with housing problems in owner households, while 33.7 million low income people with housing problems live in homes that are rented.

- Again, it is extremely low income people who have the most severe housing cost burdens in both owner and renter households (7 million in owner and 10 million in renter).

- While children make up 29 percent of all low income people, 32 percent of the low income people with housing problems are children. On the other hand, seniors are 23 percent of all low income people, but make up only 18 percent of the low income people with housing problems. Children are also over represented among extremely low income people with severe housing cost burdens.

The numbers are stark, but it is the stories of people struggling to pay for housing that give meaning to the numbers. These data make clear that the private housing market in the United States does not reach down to the lowest income people. Public intervention is required. The lack of safe, decent and affordable housing is as urgent a public policy problem as is the lack of health insurance.

The full report is available at the NLIHC web page at www.nlihc.org.

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To switch, email

Susan Francis at COHHIO at

susanfrancis@cohhio.org.

Disparities Between Housing Haves, Have-nots Continues to Grow

By Lee Stratton, Columbus Dispatch, March 14, 2004

Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. America and all the ships at sea! Let's go to press.

Reports filtering in from the home front offer both interesting and troubling insights.

The average cost of a house in the United States has doubled in 17 years and is three times what it was in 1980, the National Association of Home Builders reports.

The association predicts a buyer will have to cough up an average of \$252,000 for a new house this year or \$224,000 for an existing one.

Central Ohio housing prices have pretty much followed the national trend, although prices trailed the national average. Last year, the average selling price of a single-family home in central Ohio was about \$167,000. The national average was about \$227,000.

The total value of the U.S. housing stock exceeds \$15 trillion. Homeowners have about \$8 trillion in home equity.

That all sounds rosy, especially when 68 percent of American families own homes.

But the builders association and a report out of Harvard University offer some sobering observations.

More than 31 million families cannot obtain affordable housing. About 25 percent of American families spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, a proportion the federal government finds too high.

Additionally, homeownership is not racially-balanced. More than 75 percent of white American households own their homes. Less than half of black and Latino families are homeowners.

Smaller, less costly houses are scarce, and the supply is shrinking. The high cost of land restricts development of affordable housing. This is why, in some major metropolitan areas, thousands of people commute 100 miles or more to work.

A new report from the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard points out another indicator of the widening gap in housing costs for the poor and wealthy.

Twenty percent of all household wealth in the United States is controlled by owners of houses that cost \$1 million or more. Forty percent of household wealth is held by the owners of houses that cost more than \$500,000.

Household wealth includes the total value of financial assets controlled by individuals instead of corporations. Household wealth includes the value of family savings, investments, life insurance and pension-fund reserves, real estate and durable goods.

The study points out that one of every 72 white homeowners has a house valued at more than \$1 million. (The average "million-dollar" house is worth about \$1.7 million. About a quarter of those houses are worth more than \$2 million.)

Only one of out of every 762 minority homeowners owns such an expensive home.

The ownership rate for \$500,000-plus houses among whites is about double the rate among minorities – one out of 17 for whites and one out of 33 for minorities.

Not being able to afford a \$1 million mansion isn't the problem. The inability to afford a \$100,000 house is, the Harvard report notes.

The market that has driven up the cost of high-priced homes also has driven up the cost and reduced the availability of low-cost homes. More Americans can afford the extravagant houses. Fewer Americans can afford basic shelter.

The price of the megabucks houses is about three times the owners' annual household incomes. The home of low-income households cost their owners about six times their annual incomes.

"The rise in the number and the value of 'million-dollar' homes in the United States reveals the widening disparities between the housing haves and the housing have-nots," said Nicolas Retsinas, director of the Harvard housing center. "Ironically, in the midst of a shortage of affordable housing, million-dollar homes have been increasingly common,"

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Organizational Development Trainings Materials Available

COHHIO, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ohio Department of Development, offered five trainings on organizational development, including issues of board development, fundraising and strategic planning, in the fall of 2003. Materials from the trainings are available for \$25 per training subject. If you would like to order the materials, please indicate below which materials you would like to order and return to COHHIO with payment.

- BOARD GOVERNANCE
- FUNDRAISING
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- LEADERSHIP
- NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BASIC TRAINING

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

Materials - \$25 per training subject

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

Checks can be made out to COHHIO and orders with payment can be sent to COHHIO, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138. Questions? Call COHHIO at 614/280-1984.

Housing Ohio 2004

COHHIO's Annual Statewide Conference

April 19 - 20, 2004

Hyatt on Capitol Square, Columbus

Sponsored by:

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
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Ohio Department of Development

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Conference materials, including the brochure and registration form, as well as directions to the hotel, are available on the COHHIO web page at www.cohhio.org/training/trainings.html.

News Briefs ...

Fannie Mae Announces Chronic Homelessness Initiative

Fannie Mae has unveiled a new effort to address chronic homelessness as part of its American Dream Commitment. Fannie Mae announced that it would partner with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Corporation for Supportive Housing to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing for people who experience chronic homelessness.

As part of the initiative, Fannie Mae has pledge to:

- Stand ready to provide private capital to support the development of permanent supportive housing for people who are chronically homeless where developers have pulled together appropriate funding sources for operating costs and the residents' social service needs. To this end, Fannie Mae has pledged to fund a \$5 million corporate challenge grant to the Corporation for Supportive Housing to support capacity building among developers of supportive housing and fund a \$5 million corporate challenge grant to the National Alliance to End Homelessness to support policy research and development, including consideration of a new federal tax credit similar in design to the low-income housing tax credit or other incentives that will encourage private capital investment in permanent supportive housing properties.
- Join with partners including the Enterprise Foundation's Enterprise Social Investment Corporation and LISC's National Equity Fund to create at least two new funds dedicated to the purchase of low-income housing tax credits used to finance permanent supportive housing developments.
- Fund \$25 million in low-cost predevelopments financing to qualified partners for predevelopment and acquisition expenses for supportive housing development.
- Provide support for local planning and implementation efforts in at least 10 communities annually.

For more information, visit www.fanniemae.com/newsreleases/2004/3008.jhtml?p=Media&s=News+Releases.

Faith-Based Initiative Delivers Over \$1.1 Billion in Federal Grants

According to an article that ran in the Washington Post, "the federal government gave more than \$1.1 billion in competitive grants to religious organizations in fiscal 2003." This increase over previous years was attributed to "[President] Bush's attempt to help religious groups compete for federal funds to operate homeless shelters, soup kitchens, drug treatment centers, job training programs and other services."

"Big increases were reported by the departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development," according to the article. "HHS said it gave \$568 million in grants to 680 faith-based organizations in fiscal 2003, a 41 percent jump in the number of recipients and a 19 percent rise in dollars from the prior year. HUD reported \$532 million in grants to 765 faith-based groups, a 16 percent increase in recipients and an 11 percent increase in dollars." In proportion, HUD's grants to faith-based groups totaled 24 percent of all of its grants in fiscal year 2003.

With Congress split over facilitating funding of these groups, the President has pursued the shift mainly through executive order, said the Post. "Since 2002, many federal agencies have created offices to encourage applications by faith-based groups and have revised regulations to allow them to receive funding even if they engage in religious activity and make religion a qualification for hiring staff."

To view the article in its entirety, go to www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A44442-2004Mar9.html.

Department of Commerce Releases Unclaimed Funds for Housing Development Loans

Thanks to the efforts of Lieutenant Governor Jennette Bradley, the Department of Commerce recently approved \$37.3 million in funds from unclaimed funds to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for the Housing Development Loan Program. These funds will be used for housing development loans for the tax credit projects in the March 18th housing credit round.

National/Ohio Fair Housing Month Celebrated in April

National Fair Housing Month celebrates the passage of The Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended in 1988, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability and familial status in the sale or rental of housing. The Act was passed in the aftermath of the Civil Rights struggles and the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ohio's Fair Housing Law was enacted in 1965. In 1992, the law was modified to broaden the classes of people protected and enhance the enforcement powers of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Both the federal and state fair housing laws guarantee the right of the persons in the protected classes to live wherever they can afford to buy a home or rent an apartment and help to ensure that fair housing is a way of life. Fair housing laws helped open the doors of opportunity to countless families. While much has been accomplished since the passage of these laws, more needs to be done.

Several recent studies show that significant discrimination, especially against families with children and persons with disabilities, still exists. As a result, it is even more important that communities show a commitment to keeping the door of equal opportunity open; pledge to vigorously enforce fair housing laws to assure equal treatment of all Ohioans; and provide citizens with the knowledge that everyone has a real opportunity to live in decent, affordable housing. During Fair Housing Month, the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) encourages communities to promote greater public awareness of fair housing laws by intensifying efforts to educate residents about fair housing rights and responsibilities under the law.

By proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month, community leaders can take a bold step to ensure that discrimination and prejudice do not stand in the way of equality and justice. Questions regarding Fair Housing Month should be directed to Joyce Hill, OHCP civil rights specialist, at jhill@odod.state.oh.us or 614/466-2285.

Income Limits Available On-line

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) has posted the following income limits data on their website – FY 2004 Section 8 Income Limits; FY 2004 State of Ohio Income Limits – 35 Percent and Below; and FY 2004 State of Ohio Income Limits – 65 Percent and Below. To access the data, go to www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp and select "data."

Alphonso Jackson Becomes New HUD Secretary

Alphonso Jackson was sworn in recently as the new Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, following his confirmation by the Senate. Jackson most recently served as Acting Secretary of HUD following Mel Martinez's resignation in December and as Deputy Secretary for the three previous years. He has also directed public housing authorities in St. Louis, Washington, DC, and Dallas and chaired two redevelopment agencies in Washington, DC and St. Louis. For further details on Jackson's experience, see www.hud.gov/about/secretary/jacksonbio.cfm.

National Building Museum Opens Affordable Housing Exhibit

The exhibit, which opened February 25, features 18 recently developed or yet-to-be-developed affordable housing projects, many but not all of them the result of the HOPE VI program. The projects from cities across the country and some rural areas are meant to demonstrate “that well designed developments can offer new opportunities for the least wealthy Americans, while creating real value as assets for their surrounding communities.” Surrounding the exhibit is a timeline showing the history of affordable housing policy and design in the United States, including the earliest reform movements in the time before the Depression, wartime military housing, the establishment of HUD, the policies of the Johnson administration, and developments of today.

While the focus of the exhibit is on design, it also attempts to educate visitors on the more general need for affordable housing. As they enter the gallery, visitors are greeted by this stark fact: “Someone who makes the current minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour and allocates no more than 30 percent of annual income for housing, should not have to pay more than \$257.50 per month in rent and utilities. The average monthly cost of a reserved parking space in downtown Washington, DC, is \$280.”

New Initiative Available to Strengthen Rural Housing and Development Efforts

A new Rural Housing and Economic Housing Development Gateway will help rural communities improve their local housing and economic conditions. The gateway is an information clearinghouse, which provides technical assistance, training and information resources to support community development in rural America. Staffed by bilingual English/Spanish speaking rural experts, the Rural Gateway features a toll-free help line, a web site, e-mail access and a schedule of rural development training sessions.

The Rural Gateway will focus on developing the capacity of local leaders – local governments, nonprofit organizations and for-profit corporations – to help their own communities. It will connect rural organizations with information, technical assistance, training and investment capital to help them develop, rebuild and preserve affordable housing, local economies and essential infrastructure. The Gateway will also engage private-sector organizations to establish economic development initiatives in rural areas. In addition, the Gateway trainings will be offered across the country to provide rural community development professionals with the information, resources and technical skills they need to be effective. The training sessions will offer workshops on rural housing, infrastructure and economic development. Experts with practical rural experience will lead sessions and answer questions. It is anticipated that one of the trainings will be conducted in Ohio in September 2005. The Rural Gateway is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development and implemented by the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Gateway staff can answer housing and development questions at 877/787-2526 or gateway@ruralhome.org. To view the web site, which provides information and publications about funding sources and best practices, visit www.ruralhome.org/gateway.

Worker Adjustment Retraining Notification (WARN) Act

The WARN act provides protection to workers, their families and communities by requiring employers to provide notification 60 calendar days in advance of plant closings and mass layoffs. WARN Notices are provided by employers to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. To see a list of current layoffs for 2004 in Ohio, visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/warn/index.stm>.

YEP Youth Make a Difference in Washington

by Nick Bates, YEP Intern

As a volunteer intern, I had the opportunity to drive with a group from the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) to Washington D.C. We went to participate in the National People’s Action (NPA) conference. NPA is a national coalition of neighborhood organizations that address a variety of local issues from urban poverty, housing, education, to immigrant rights, and rural family farming; an organization that wants to make democracy work for the people. The conference began on Saturday with the platform being established. The platform represented issues that the different groups had discussed the previous meetings. During the opening celebration, an evil shark, pig and thug ventured into the conference attempting to sway our views on these important issues. The loan shark, the factory farming pig, and inner city thug with all his “bling-bling” were all kicked out of the celebration receiving huge cheers from the crowd.

On Sunday morning, the workshops began at 8:00 am. YEP’s own Becka, 16 from Kenton, presented at the youth session regarding education and homeless youth. Becka discussed the huge success YEP has had regarding a new shelter system that will be better for kids, and at our successes at the State Department of Education. Becka shared these successes and goals along with other youth who have done great things in other communities across the country. These young adults give everyone hope for a great future for our communities!

After the workshops ended, there was a quick and enthusiastic meeting. After the meeting we loaded onto buses and our leadership team told us about the Dream Act. The Dream Act allows immigrant children who have been living in America for five years to attend college at in-state prices. Currently, they have to pay international rates! The Senate and House committees are ready to submit the DREAM Act to the floor but Washington politics has prevented the vote. Karl Rove, Bush’s top advisor, has been preventing the Dream Act from going forward. Rove refuses to meet with anyone who wants it passed. Rove continually refused to meet with NPA advocates and other immigrant rights groups, so we went to him. Sad to say, Rove didn’t invite the 600+ people that showed up at his house for tea. Rove’s neighbors were more supportive, welcoming us back anytime.

We came to ask Rove to the table and explain his position to block the Dream Act. He agreed to meet with two leaders if the rest of the group left. We did and once again Rove shut the door, and refused to hear the needs of the people.

The next day, Monday March 29th, the two YEP students got a great civics lesson. We visited Senator Mike DeWine. Becka and Fyne, 13, gave their stories to DeWine’s housing policy director. Fyne shared about the Volunteers of America after school program that he is involved in. The program helps him with his homework and has taught him how to play basketball, which is now his favorite sport. Becka explained the challenges of being homeless in a rural area and how she wanted to attend the University of Minnesota and major in Physics.

The youth were most concerned about funding for homeless education programs, including the Youth Scholarship Act, and preventing cuts to Section 8 housing programs. Senator DeWine and his staff seemed very interested and concerned about these issues.

Becka and Fyne were amazing throughout the weekend. Sharing experiences, cheering, and singing to support people that they have only just met. The members of YEP are taking the initiative and changing their world for themselves and for all of those around them, and they know how to go about getting effective change in our communities, nation, and even the world.

For more information on the YEP program, contact Angela Lariviere at angelalariviere@cohhio.org or 614/280-1984.

SAMSHA NOFAs

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has announced the availability of FY 2004 funds for several programs:

1) Youth Transition into the Workplace Grants. Will document and evaluate innovative practices that provide substance abuse prevention and early intervention programs for younger employees ages 16 to 24. Those seeking grants should pay specific attention to gender, ethnic, cultural, linguistic and occupational variations in workplace programs targeting young workers. Approximately \$2 million will be available to fund up to 13 Phase I awards. Application for No. SP 04-006, are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 800/729-6686, or by downloading from the SAMHSA web site at www.samhsa.gov. Click on "grant opportunities." Submission deadline is May 27. Applicants with questions on program issues should contact Deborah M. Galvin at 301/443-6780 or e-mail to dgalvin@samhsa.gov. For questions on grant management issues, contact Edna Frazier at 301/443-6816 or e-mail to efrazier@samhsa.gov

2) Grants to Expand Substance Abuse Treatment Capacity in Targeted Area of Need. Provides funds to expand and/or enhance the community's ability to provide comprehensive, integrated, and community-based response to a targeted, well-documented substance abuse treatment capacity problem and/or improve the quality and intensity of services in a local area. It is expected that approximately \$12 million will be available to fund programs in four categories of need: Treatment concentrated on minority populations; Treatment in rural areas; Treatment for methamphetamine and other emerging drugs in specific states and localities; and Other innovative approaches to treatment capacity expansion that involve early identification of and interventions for persons with substance use disorders that have not progressed to dependence; are implemented in general medical and other community settings; and seek to improve linkages among these community agencies and specialist substance abuse treatment agencies. Eligible applicants are restricted to states and units of local government (e.g., cities, towns, counties) or Indian tribes and tribal organizations. Applications for No. TI 04-003 TCE, are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 800/729-6686, or by downloading from the SAMHSA web site at www.samhsa.gov. Click on "grant opportunities." Submission deadline is May 25. Applicants with questions on program issues should contact Ken Robertson at 301/443-7612 or e-mail to kroberts@samhsa.gov. For questions on grant management issues, contact Kathleen Sample at 301/443-9667 or e-mail to ksample@samhsa.gov.

(continued)

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!

3) Grants to deliver and evaluate peer-to-peer recovery support services. The Recovery Community Services Program will help prevent relapse and promote sustained recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders for people with a history of alcohol and/or drug problems who are in or seeking recovery, along with family members and significant others who will be both the providers and recipients of recovery support services. Approximately \$2.5 million will be available to fund up to seven awards. Application for No. TI 04-008, are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 800/729-6686, or by downloading from the SAMHSA web site at www.samhsa.gov. Click on "grant opportunities." Submission deadline is May 18. Applicants with questions on program issues should contact Catherine D. Nugent at 301/443-2662 or e-mail to cnugent@samhsa.gov. For questions on grant management issues, contact Kathleen Sample at 301/443-9667 or e-mail to ksample@samhsa.gov.

4) Development of comprehensive drug/alcohol and mental health treatment systems for persons who are homeless. These grants will enable communities to expand and strengthen treatment services for homeless individuals with substance abuse disorders, mental illness, or with co-occurring substance abuse disorders and mental illness. Approximately \$13.9 million will be available to fund up to 35 awards. Application for No. TI 04-001, are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 800/729-6686, or by downloading from the SAMHSA web site at www.samhsa.gov. Click on "grant opportunities." Submission deadline is May 28. Applicants with questions on program issues should contact Joanne Gampel at 301/443-7945 or e-mail to jgampel@samhsa.gov. or Gigi Belanger at 301/443-1391 or e-mail to gbelange@samhsa.gov. For questions on grant management issues, contact Kathleen Sample at 301/443-9667 or e-mail to ksample@samhsa.gov.

New Substance Abuse Treatment Resources Available

SAMSHA has announced the availability of substance abuse treatment vouchers. States may receive up to \$15 million each year for this three-year demonstration project. The vouchers can be used to develop or purchase community-based treatment and recovery services. The grant program is intended to promote individual choice for substance abuse services including access to faith based treatment programs. Grant applications are due June 4. For more information, visit www.atr.samhsa.gov.

How Much Do You Pay for Worker's Compensation?

The Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) allows organizations to group together to save money on workers' compensation premiums. The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), in conjunction with the Frank Gates Service Company, sponsors such a group that saves members valuable dollars that can go to meet other more pressing needs. According to the Ohio BWC, the COHHIO group rating program saved its members 77 percent on premiums in 2003. Our group's savings have been among the highest in the industry for three years in a row now. For example, an organization not affiliated with a group would pay 100 percent of their premiums. With COHHIO's group, this same organization would have only paid 23 percent of their premium last year. Joining a group rating program is the only way to ensure that you won't pay any more than you have to for workers' compensation. COHHIO's group has saved other non-profit organizations thousands of dollars over the last seven years.

While these savings are impressive, there is an innovative new partnership among leading trade associations that gives group rating clients of The Frank Gates Service Company more options to save as much as possible off workers' compensation premiums.

The National Employers Network Alliance (NENA) is a national association of trade and business organizations created to provide cost saving programs for members, such as COHHIO's group rating. Beginning July 1st, 2004, all Frank Gates' group rating programs will go through NENA. What does this mean to COHHIO members? Bottom line, just about all of the COHHIO members who are currently in the group will now see an even greater discount, higher savings, and the ability to generate a higher return on their investment.

It is not too late to join the COHHIO group rating program. If you would like additional information about the group, or just want to know what your potential savings could be, please contact Al Gardner with the Frank Gates Service Company at 800/777-4283. If your organization is already a member of COHHIO – why not take advantage of all the benefits. If you're not a member – what are you waiting for?

It's a fact of life for nonprofits.

Fundraising is how we keep our doors open.

Community Shares of Mid Ohio, of which COHHIO is a member, was established as a coalition of nonprofit organizations for the purpose of collaboratively participating in workplace giving campaigns that provide vital financial support from employee donations to member nonprofits.

Community Shares member agencies are community-based, volunteer-led nonprofits preventing family, school, and neighborhood violence, homelessness and hunger, child abuse and neglect, and environmental devastation; protecting civil and human rights; increasing literacy, democracy and voter education, healthy lives and safety, and diversity. We are committed to social justice and real solutions to local needs.

Community Shares honors the wishes of donors to direct their gift to the charity of their choice; seventy-five percent of Community Shares workplace givers designate their donation to a specific member agency.

GOALS

- To collaboratively raise funds for the benefit of member 501(c)(3) nonprofits actively engaged in programs directed toward community improvement, social change, and citizen education and empowerment.
- To establish a strong financial base to ensure the continued existence and effectiveness of member agencies.
- To enhance the capacity of member agencies to accomplish their missions through funding, leadership development, training, and education.

WORKPLACE FUNDRAISING

- Is a time and cost effective method of raising funds from individual donors.
- Reaches a large number of people with information about services within the community.
- Increases the resources available to the entire community by adding more local nonprofits to workplace campaigns
- Includes employees of all income levels and makes philanthropy more diverse and democratic.

IMPACT

- Raised over \$1,000,000 since 1993 for member agencies.
- Increased community exposure and funding for local nonprofits through cooperative federation participation.
- Expanded public sector campaigns in Franklin County, City of Columbus, Columbus Metro Library, Columbus Public Schools, and The Ohio State University to include over 150 additional nonprofits; added new private sector campaigns.
- Gave Community Shares members access to over 125,000 new potential donors.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To reach our goal to assist member nonprofits, we need the support of visionary community members like you who understand the importance of building the infrastructure and capacity of agencies working for social and economic justice.

- If your workplace does not include Community Shares, ask your employer to include Community Shares in your annual charity drive.
- You can help us by introducing Community Shares to friends and colleagues who share your interest in expanding the capacity of progressive and environmental nonprofits and would be willing to speak on our behalf to develop new or expanded workplace campaigns. We can tailor a workplace campaign to meet the needs of employers and employees.
- You can also help by remembering Community Shares and your favorite member agencies through your support in your workplace giving campaign in the fall. It's easy to give and easy to help when you give through payroll deduction. You can direct your campaign gift to one or several specific agencies.
- And, don't hesitate to encourage your family, friends and coworkers to consider asking for Community Shares and our member agencies at the workplace.

You can reach Community Shares at 614/262-1176, or at comshare@core.com.

Community Shares generates stable funding for community-based, social justice nonprofits working on long term solutions to local needs:

- Social change and social service
- Community building and citizen involvement
- Self-help and prevention
- Grass-roots education and advocacy

Resources

TRAININGS

- April 26-27 - *National Low Income Housing Coalition Annual Conference*, Washington, DC. Conference sessions will explore what 2004 will hold for national housing policy, including housing in the elections, the latest in polling and public opinion research, the National Housing Trust Fund, and other current housing issues. For more information, visit www.nlihc.org.
- May 5 - *Changing Minds, Building Communities: Advancing Affordable Housing through Communications Campaigns*, Minneapolis. Join experienced practitioners, national housing leaders, and marketing professionals from across the country to examine how to communicate effectively to gain support for affordable housing. Training will include new research, exploration of how to use the lessons from successful campaigns in local work, and discussion of national marketing plans proposed by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and The Campaign for Affordable Housing. For more information, visit www.nw.org/network/training/tuitregis/minneapolis2004/minneapolis2004Symp.htm.
- May 5-7 - *Staying Connected - Fifth Annual Ohio Service Coordinators Conference*, Columbus. For more information, visit www.goldenbuckeye.com and click on Education & Training.
- May 12 - *Strengthening the Sector: Accountability, Advocacy and Alliances*, Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations Annual Conference, Columbus. Keynote speaker - James Carville. For more information, visit www.ohiononprofits.org.
- May 14 - *Community Development Policy Summit: The Recapitalization of Communities*, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Columbus. Speakers will discuss pending and current legislation, including the Community Homeownership Tax Credit, CRA, CEDA, and more. For more information, visit www.clevelandfed.org or contact Jeff Gatica at 513/455-4281 or jeffrey.a.gatica@clev.frb.org.
- May 18 - *Ohio CDC Association "Thank You Lobby Day"*, Columbus. For more information, contact Patricia Barnes at 614/461-6392 or pkbarnes@ohiocdc.org.
- *Workers' Compensation University, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation*. Offers a wide variety of courses designed with the needs of small-to-medium sized employers in mind. Remaining classes are April 23 – Portsmouth, April 26 – Lima, April 28 – Marietta, and May 4 – Ashtabula. For more information, visit www.ohiobwc.com and click on the WCU banner ad at the top of the page or call 800/466-6292.
- *Lead-Based Paint-Related Trainings, Ohio Department of Development's Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP)*. *Renovation and Remodeling* is designed for people working in the remodeling and renovation industry, including general rehabilitation workers, such as dry wallers, painters and carpenters. Fee is \$10. Trainings will be held – May 4 – Athens, May 18 – Greenville, June 8 – St. Marys and June 22 – Ashtabula. OHCP is also offering targeted trainings for communities that are interested in hosting the training and can guarantee that at least 15 local contractors will attend the session. *Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor* is designed to equip housing and building inspectors and risk assessors with the specialized skills necessary to conduct accurate and defensible building/housing inspections for lead-based paint and familiarize participants with the likely locations of lead hazards; the interpretation of results of paint, dust, soil and water testing and the development of abatement reduction responses. Fee is \$100 and the training will be held May 10 – 14 in Newark. *Lead Risk Assessor Refresher* is a one-day review that provides certified risk assessors with a review of the Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor training and update participants regarding Ohio's lead abatement laws and regulations. Fee is \$50 and the training will be held September 14 in Newark. For more information, visit the OHCP web site at www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ohcp and select "Lead-Based Paint Issues." For more information, contact Betsy Giffin at bgiffin@odod.state.oh.us or 614/466-2285.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Rural Seniors and Their Homes*, Housing Assistance Council. Looks at the continuing growth of the nation's elderly population and the special challenges faced by rural seniors. The study stresses the importance of access to a housing continuum for rural seniors so they can receive housing appropriate to their needs. For more information, visit www.ruralhome.org/pubs/elderlyreport/ruralseniors.pdf.
- *Solutions Through Alternative Remedies: Practical Models to Help End Homelessness*, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. The report outlines model projects to address people living on city streets without resorting to criminalizing the behavior of those who do so, supportive housing models, improving access to housing for domestic violence survivors, improving access to education for children experiencing homelessness, and benefit outreach programs. For more information, visit www.nlchp.org.
- *Multifamily Housing: More Accessible HUD Data Could Help Efforts to Preserve Housing for Low-Income Tenants*, General Accounting Office. Reports that rents could rise for more than 101,000 units without rental assistance in HUD properties whose mortgages will mature in the next ten years. For more information, visit www.gao.gov.
- *Guide to Fundraising for Rural Housing Nonprofits: Strategies for Raising Operating Funds*, Housing Assistance Council. For more information, visit www.ruralhome.org/pubs/nonprofit/FundraisingGuide2004Update.pdf.

FUNDING

- *Linked Deposit Fund Program*. The Ohio Community Development Finance Fund has re-opened this program. If you are planning a rental project or an economic development project and can't make the figures work due to the interest rate offered by the lender, give us a call. You may be a candidate for the Linked Deposit Fund. For more information, contact the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund at 614/221-1114.
- *Housing Preservation Grant*. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service requests proposals for its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program provides eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners to repair and rehabilitate their homes in rural areas, and to assist rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes to repair and rehabilitate their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons. \$9.9 million was available in FY 03, FY04 level TBD, no cost share required. 150 awards anticipated. Responses due May 6. For more information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/index.html. Refer to USDA-RD-RHS-04-002.

- 2004 MetLife Foundation Awards. The 2004 MetLife Foundation Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing is accepting applications. The awards recognize 501 (c)(3) community-based or regional nonprofits and Tribes/Tribal Designated Housing Entities in two categories: supportive housing and property and asset management. Winners in each category receive unrestricted grants of \$25,000 for first place, \$15,000 for second place and \$10,000 for third place. Deadline for entries is April 30. For more information, visit www.enterprisefoundation.org.

WEBSITES

- *Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor, HUD's Office of Policy Development & Research.* Web-based tool designed to help improve energy efficiency in existing residences during renovation and remodeling. In six clicks, the Advisor provides recommendations for cost-effectively increasing the energy efficiency of a typical renovation project in single-family or multifamily housing. For more information, visit www.rehabadvisor.com.

- *Firststep Guide to Federal Mainstream Benefits Programs, Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).* An online tool for case managers, outreach workers and others to assist people who are homeless with accessing 11 Federal mainstream benefit programs, including: Food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, One-Stop Career Center System, Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance, and Supplemental Security Income, State Children's Health Insurance Program, TANF, VA Compensation and VA Health Care benefits. FirstStep provides information and tips about these programs, including basic contact information, information regarding the application process and specific client benefits, eligibility requirements, and additional information for immigrants. The tools and resources section includes fact sheets and Q&A materials on each of the programs. There are also links to the main websites of the various mainstream programs, as well as other helpful organizations. Available at www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/homeless/firststep/index.html.

- *National Organizations Concerned with Mental Health, Housing, and Homelessness, National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness.* Covers 124 Federal agencies and national organizations concerned with the mental health treatment, housing, and support services needs of individuals and families who are homeless, provides complete contact information and brief descriptions of services and resources available. Downloaded at www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov or call 800/444-7415 or e-mail to nrc@prainc.com and reference publication #640.

EMPLOYMENT

- *Enterprise Positions – Acquisitions Manager & Senior Development Officer, Cleveland.* These two positions require strong financial and analytical skills to identify and underwrite tax credit projects. Responsibilities include underwrite multifamily developments financed with the Low Income Tax Credit, perform financial projections and evaluating potential investments, prepare submissions to the Investment Committee, coordinate project closing with attorneys, accountants and developers, establish good working relationships with developers of affordable housing, and provide technical assistance to nonprofit developers. Bachelors degree in Finance, Planning or equivalent and five to seven years experience is required. For more information on either position, contact Duana Jones at jobopp@esic.org.

- *Executive Director, Oikos CDC, Dayton.* Growth-oriented, non-profit community development corporation seeks innovative, visionary candidates for Executive Director position. Job includes – serving as chief executive of organization, supervision of staff and contractors, developing and managing all revitalization projects, fundraising and grant writing. Requires a college degree, skills in business planning, budgeting and nonprofit administration, experience with urban revitalization, excellent writing and interpersonal communication skills. Please send resume and cover letter to President, Oikos CDC, 1306 North Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45405.

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Senior Housing Information Center, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.* Provides technical assistance to public housing authorities (PHAs) and tribes interested in modernizing or building elderly public housing. The center will also assist PHAs in identifying and addressing the barriers encompassed in the development of public housing for the elderly. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/pihforseniors.

- *Enterprise Foundation, Cleveland - New Director.* Bill Whitney has been named director of the Cleveland office of The Enterprise Foundation, a non-profit leader in affordable housing development. "Bill's innovation and effectiveness through the years has earned him the trust and respect of community development leaders throughout Cleveland," said Terri Y. Montague, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Enterprise Foundation. "His experience will be a tremendous asset as we work with our partners to finance and expand efforts to bring about neighborhood development of greater size, scale and impact. We are pleased to have him onboard." The Enterprise Foundation and its affiliates have partnered in Cleveland community development efforts since 1983. Together, they have assisted in the creation or rehabilitation of 4,936 homes for low-income families through loans and grants totaling nearly \$187 million.

COHHIO's Predatory Lending Hotline
1-877-228-1645

COHHIO's Vehicle Donation Program

COHHIO can now accept vehicle donations. This program is an easy way to support COHHIO's work. Donated vehicles may include cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, or RV's. This program has been made possible through a partnership with the Volunteers of America of Central Ohio. Contact Susan Francis at COHHIO for more information at susanfrancis@cohhio.org or 614-280-1984.

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)

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

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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.