

# Breaking Ground

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

..... June 2005

## The Poor Loses Health Care but Housing Wins in State Budget

The Ohio Senate completed the work on the state budget bill (HB 66) for the next two years and passed the bill on June 1, 2005. The bill now goes to a conference committee made up of members of the House and Senate to work out their differences.

The budget bill contains numerous provisions, which will make life more difficult for low-income Ohioans such as the elimination of the Disability Medical Assistance program and the loss of parent coverage under Medicaid for families between 90 – 100 percent of the poverty level. Advocates will continue to press the case to restore these cuts through the conference committee process, which will be completed by the end of June.

### Housing Trust Fund

The Ohio Senate increased the funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund from \$45 to \$53 million per year for each of the next two years. State Senator Randy Gardner was the primary champion for this proposal along with the Finance Committee Chairman John Carey and Senate President Bill Harris. Senator Kirk Schuring also provided valuable leadership to get this done. In addition to the \$53 million per year, the Senate approved Finance Chairman Carey’s plan to transfer \$1.5 million per year from the Housing Trust Fund account to the Department of Mental Health to support the operation of Residential Care Facilities, which primarily serve people with mental illness in board and care homes across the state. The provision will help those facilities that receive support from the Residential State Supplement Program (RSS), which will now be administered by the Department of Mental Health.

### Housing Trust Fund Appropriation -

	Governor/House Proposed FY 2005	Governor/House Proposed FY 2006	Governor/House Proposed FY 2007	Senate Budget FY 2006	Senate Budget FY 2007
	\$45,000,000	\$46,000,000	\$48,000,000	\$53,000,000	\$53,000,000

In the last state budget the legislature approved the plan to fund the Ohio Housing Trust Fund with the proceeds from an increase in the recording fees. Thus far this source is generating about \$20 million per quarter or more than \$80 million per year. The first \$50 million in each fiscal year is deposited into the Housing Trust Fund and everything above that goes to the General Revenue Fund. However, the last budget only appropriated \$45 million per year for the Housing Trust Fund. In addition to the \$50 million from the recording fee, the Housing Trust Fund earns an additional \$3 million annually, primarily as a result of interest earned and recaptures from funded projects that do not go forward.

### Unclaimed Funds

For many years, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) has borrowed approximately \$60 million a year of Unclaimed Funds from the Ohio Department of Commerce to fund its Housing Development Loan Program. The Housing Development Loan Program offers various types of financing such as equity bridge financing for the development of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families, and is critical to the success of many tax credit developments. In the Governor’s budget, \$126 million of Unclaimed Funds are taken for the General Fund and various economic development initiatives.



However, with the support of Doug White, the Director of the Department of Commerce, and the Ohio Housing Council, Commerce freed up almost \$80 million in Unclaimed Funds to be used as development loans by OHFA over the next two years.

**Let The People Vote**

Election Reform advocates gathered for a legislative education day on Tuesday, May 24 at the Ohio Statehouse. Over 60 participants from around the state representing different voter reform groups came together to talk with Senators about HB 3, the "Election Reform" bill. This measure recently passed the Ohio House of Representatives. This event was sponsored by COHHIO, Common Cause of Ohio and the Columbus Urban League. Peg Rosenfield from the League of Women Voters gave the group a history and summary of HB 3 before participants left to educate state senators.

One of the good provisions of HB 3 is permitting absentee voting for all voters. If this measure remains intact, voters will no longer be required to give a reason for voting absentee. Participants spoke in support of this measure. However, one of the concerns raised by the League of Women Voters is the proposed requirement for Ohioans to vote by provisional ballot if their mailing address notices from boards of election are returned as undeliverable. Voters will be required to vote provisionally even if they produce a valid ID at the polls. This is somewhat counter-intuitive...why would presentation of an ID the day after the election be more valid than ID presented on Election Day. Finally, there continues to be grave concern from voter accessibility advocates about SB 36. This bill will require every voter in every election to present current photo ID before being allowed to vote. This restrictive requirement is currently being proposed in SB 36 which is rumored to become part of HB 3 before final passage. General consensus at the end of the day from participants was that some senators have a concern about the no-fault absentee voting provision adopted in the House and about the photo ID provision because it will impact the Amish.

To send a message to your state senator about election reform in Ohio, go to [http://capwiz.com/cohhio/mail/oneclick\\_compose/?alertid=7598951](http://capwiz.com/cohhio/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=7598951). Special thanks to COHHIO Board members Karen Rainey, Rachel Robinson and Linda Stallworth for assisting with this event. For more information, contact Cathy Johnston at [cathyjohnston@cohhio.org](mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org) or 614-280-1984.

**Budget Final, Congress Strikes Blow To Low-Income Programs**

On April 28, Congress passed a budget resolution that will cap discretionary spending and cut funding for low-income programs. The final budget, developed solely by Republicans, requires almost \$35 billion in cuts to mandatory programs, which are to be implemented during reconciliation. Out of the \$35 billion, \$10 billion, over the next five years, is assumed to come from the Medicaid program. The Agriculture Committee has also been directed to find savings of \$3 billion. These savings are expected to come from the food stamp program. These cuts are about half of what the House had requested and double what the Senate had requested. The budget conferees adopted the President's discretionary spending levels of \$893 billion, including \$373 billion in cuts to domestic discretionary programs, outside of defense and international spending. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), this funding level is \$23 billion less than FY05 levels, adjusted for inflation, and will require \$212 billion in cuts over the next five years.

Housing advocates can claim one small victory in the budget resolution. The conferees retained the Senate budget language that allows for the restoration of cuts to community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The decision will still be left to Appropriators to actually use the increased funding for the CDBG program. The negotiated budget also includes \$106 billion in tax cuts over the next five years. Out of the \$106 billion, \$70 billion are included in the reconciliation process. The reconciliation process requires certain committees to submit legislation that will mandate spending cuts in specific programs. The reconciliation process is used for cuts to entitlement programs and taxes. Committees have until September 16 to submit legislation for cuts to entitlement programs. Legislation for tax cuts does not have to be submitted until September 23. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities surmises that the bills have two separate deadlines to attempt to hide the fact that tax cuts are being given to the wealthy at the expense of the poor. Democrats argue that, if they had been fully involved in the budget process, the budget would not include such drastic cuts. The Democrats on the conference committee said at an April 27 press conference that they were not included in the process and they lambasted Republicans for not working on a budget in a bi-partisan manner.

**Campaign for Ohio's Future on the Move**

The Campaign for Ohio's Future, the statewide coalition formed to defeat the tax expenditure limitation constitutional amendment or TABOR scored a major victory as it has become evident that the legislature will not place such an amendment on the fall ballot. The House could not gather sufficient consensus to get the 60 votes needed to place the constitutional amendment on the ballot. Senate President Bill Harris has openly opposed the measure, so it is clear that the measure is dead in the Senate as well. Citizens for Tax Reform (CTR) is now forced to try gathering over 332,000 signatures from Ohio voters to place the measure on the November 2005 ballot. The Campaign is assuming that CTR will get this done, as they have hired paid petition circulators who have already begun gathering signatures.

Another point of optimism comes from a recent *Cleveland Plain Dealer* article citing the results of a poll they conducted on the issue in May, which showed that voter support for the proposed amendment has declined significantly since the beginning of the year. The Campaign for Ohio's Future is moving forward and held their first news conference with representatives of dozens of community, business, religious, social service, labor and advocacy organizations in a packed Statehouse hearing room on April 19. The event was any eye-opener for many reporters because one of the featured speakers was Brad Young, the former Republican Chairman of the House Appropriations and Joint Budget Committees in Colorado. Mr. Young described himself as a "conservative budget hawk" who is vehemently opposed to Colorado's TABOR amendment which passed there in 1992. Young told reporters that the amendment damaged the economy and business climate of Colorado, especially when it was trying to recover from an economic slump. {TABOR} sounds good," said Young. "It was sold as an easy fix. Everybody wants to cut spending and reduce taxes...It was sold as something that magically creates accountability, eliminates waste, and forces the legislature to set the right priorities. It simply doesn't do those things. {The amendment} is a Trojan horse." Young added that he and many other former supporters are now working to change the Colorado's TABOR on the November 2005 ballot.

David Bradley from the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities presented the results of his group's research showing that if a similar amendment had been adopted in Ohio ten years ago, \$19 billion alone would have had to been cut from the state's budget, including \$3 billion in 2004. This would have likely led to major cuts in higher education and health care funding.

Citizens for Tax Reform have begun the petition drive by hiring paid petition circulators. If you happen to come in contact with these paid circulators, approach them and get a beat on their line. We would appreciate hearing from you after you have discussed the issue with them. Contact Cathy Johnston at COHHIO at [cathyjohnston@cohhio.org](mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org) or 614-280-1984. For more information, visit the Campaign for Ohio's Future web page at <http://ohiosfuture.org/>.

**Ohio Department of Development Issues RFP**

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) has issued the FY 2005 Homeless Request for Proposals (RFP). Funds are available for emergency shelter, transitional housing, homelessness prevention/housing placement, direct housing and permanent supportive housing. The Homeless RFP Program is the result of ODOD's effort to integrate the Combined ESG/SHH program and portions of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund RFP program into a single competitive application process. Handicapped accessibility and homebuyer counseling/downpayment assistance activities formerly available under the Housing Trust Fund RFP, will be available under the Housing Assistance RFP (application scheduled to be issued on July 18, 2005). To go to the Homeless RFP Application (which is due August 1), go to [www.odod.state.oh.us/webforms](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/webforms). The application can be found under FY2005 Homeless Assistance Request for Proposals Program Application and Instructions.

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To switch: email Susan Francis at COHHIO at [susanfrancis@cohhio.org](mailto:susanfrancis@cohhio.org).

**Jackson Testifies Before House Committee on Proposed Changes to Section 8**

On May 11th, the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1999, the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act of 2005, which is the Administration's proposal to reform the Housing Choice Voucher Program (see May issue of *Breaking Ground*). The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Alphonso Jackson, testified that Section 8 costs are "spiraling out of control" and that the program's regulations are "overly prescriptive and difficult to administer." Many members expressed concern about how this proposal would affect homelessness. In particular, they worried that if income targeting requirements are changed fewer homeless people will be served. Ranking Member Barney Frank (D-MA) stated "I have myself encountered very few homeless people who are at 50-55 percent of Area Median Income." Members also expressed concern that more people will become homeless as a result of evictions due to time-limits on enhanced vouchers; Jackson replied by saying "They [tenants] will be fine. I believe that they have the ability to pay rent." Rep. Arthur Davis (D-AL) challenged Jackson about how this proposal would detract from the Administration's commitment to ending chronic homelessness in ten years. Jackson replied that "we will do everything in our power to end chronic homelessness because it's very very important" and stated that he did not believe that this proposal and the initiative to end homelessness were connected. Members also questioned the provision that would make it harder for voucher recipients to move to another jurisdiction, asking how this can be justified as a cost saving measure, and arguing that it will only serve to increase segregation and concentration of poverty. Multiple members including Frank and Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT) expressed concern that we are being asked to cut money from HUD at a time when we are spending so much money elsewhere in the budget. Tax cuts and the war were mentioned as specific areas where we are spending more money at the same time that we are being asked to cut money from programs for poor people. Shays expressed concern that we are "pushing this program off a cliff." He said that while we do face a huge challenge in trying to deal with the rising cost of Section 8, we must not forget the good motive behind the Section 8 program, and we must not simply "pass the buck" to local housing authorities. For more information about H.R. 1999, see [www.nlihc.org/news/042805.html](http://www.nlihc.org/news/042805.html).

**Income Targeting, Program Funding, Discussed at House Hearing on Section 8**

Witnesses representing public housing authorities, advocates, and a former Section 8 voucher holder testified about the Administration's proposal to restructure the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program on May 17th. Housing authority directors were most concerned with the relaxing of income targeting standards. They explained that even if the changing of income standards is optional, housing authorities will face extreme pressure to serve higher-income people in order to meet performance standards set by HUD and to balance their budgets. Rudy Monteil, Executive Director of the City of Los Angeles Housing Authority, said that this change in income targeting will "hurt the poorest of the poor."

Many witnesses also spoke out against the program's lack of adequate and predictable funding, and the bill's failure to address this. They called for a stable funding source tied to the actual number and cost of vouchers. Jon Gutzman, Executive Director of the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency, said "we can afford this program if we want to." Other witnesses spoke about the impact of H.R. 1999 on segregation and the concentration of poverty. Philip Tegeler, Executive Director of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, said that the bill will disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos. Margery Turner of the Urban Institute stressed that the current Section 8 program deconcentrates poverty, and she cited social science research demonstrating that this leads to better outcomes for families. Turner said that the proposal has the potential to worsen racial and income segregation.

Tarrah Leach spoke about her experience being on Section 8 after leaving two abusive relationships and going through episodes of homelessness. She relied on Section 8 to help with her housing costs while she raised three children, went to college, and worked a part time job. After graduating from college Leach became a licensed practical nurse and became ineligible for Section 8 because of her increase in income. Leach said that receiving Section 8 for seven years helped her achieve her goals, and that she is worried that time limits and scaling back of the program will not allow others to have the same opportunities that she had.

**Members of Ohio Congressional Delegation Take the Lead on Affordable Housing Solutions**

The prospects for decent housing for the nation’s low-income families were improved by the Financial Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives under the leadership of Chairman Mike Oxley (R-Findlay) and Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee Chair Bob Ney (R-Zanesville). The committee approved a measure to add new resources to produce, preserve and rehabilitate more housing that the lowest-income people can afford. Other members of the Ohio Delegation who are members of the Committee and voted to support the Affordable Housing Fund includes: Reps. Pat Tiberi (R-Columbus), Paul Gillmor (R-Defiance), and Steve LaTourette (R-Painesville). Rep. Deborah Pryce (R-Columbus) voted in favor of a failed amendment to strike the affordable housing fund from the bill. She subsequently voted in favor of the bill including the affordable housing fund. The Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2005 will strengthen federal regulation of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The bill, which was voted out of committee by 65 to 5, also expands these government sponsored enterprises’ missions to provide more affordable housing. The bill requires that the GSEs dedicate five percent of their after tax profits to an affordable housing fund for housing that will benefit extremely low-and very-low income households. The initial estimate is that may be \$400-600 million a year.

**Court Rules that Fair Housing Act Protects Victims of Domestic Violence**

In *Bouley v. Young-Sabourin* the court ruled that because victims of domestic violence are most often women, discriminating against domestic violence victims violates the sex discrimination provisions of the Fair Housing Act. In the case, the plaintiff had called the police after being assaulted by her husband. Her husband was arrested and shortly thereafter, she received a letter of eviction from her landlord which she contested. Domestic violence is often cited as a cause of homelessness for individuals and families; in a national survey of homeless clients, domestic violence was the second most frequently stated cause of homelessness for families. *Bouley v. Young-Sabourin* sets an important legal precedent that can help prevent homelessness among victims of domestic violence. For more information see [www.aclu.org/WomensRights/WomensRights.cfm?ID=18042&c=173](http://www.aclu.org/WomensRights/WomensRights.cfm?ID=18042&c=173).

**Bill to Improve Reentry Programs Introduced in House**

A bipartisan group of twenty-nine House Members, led by Representatives Rob Portman (R-OH), Howard Coble (R-NC), Danny Davis (D-IL), and Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH), introduced the Second Chance Act of 2005 (H.R. 1704) to fund programs to assist people reentering communities after leaving prison. Among the legislation’s various provisions are authorizations for up to \$40 million in funding for states to provide comprehensive reentry programming (including housing assistance) and up to \$15 million in grants for community and faith-based organizations to provide mentoring and transitional services to help people leaving prison to reintegrate into the community. A further provision in the bill would repeal the prohibition of Federal financial aid based on drug convictions for all individuals except those whose drug offenses occur during the receipt of such assistance. Complete text of the legislation and the list of cosponsors are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:h.r.01704>.

**Senate Passes Bill to Extend Mental Health Courts Program**

The bill (S. 289), cosponsored by Senators Mike DeWine (R-OH), Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Peter Domenici (R-NM), would authorize \$10 million annually through fiscal year 2011 for courts that handle non-violent criminal cases for defendants who have mental illness. These courts help establish early identification of non-violent mentally ill offenders and assist them in obtaining appropriate treatment. In light of the elimination of funding for the courts program in 2004 and 2005, reauthorizing the program has become essential to the hopes of future funding. The bill will next be considered by the House of Representatives.

**Rural Utilities Service - Household Water Well System Grant Program**

Funds available to assist individuals who own or will own household water well systems. The grant funds are to establish a lending program to provide low-interest loans to eligible individuals. As grant recipients, the non-profit organizations will set up a revolving loan fund to provide the loans to individuals to construct, refurbish, and service individually-owned household well systems. Applications due July 18, 2005. For more information, visit: [www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/USDA/RD/RUS/USDA-GRANTS-100804-001/Modification2.html](http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/USDA/RD/RUS/USDA-GRANTS-100804-001/Modification2.html).

**Two New HUD Studies Examine Outcomes of Homeownership** Two studies test two important assumptions often made about homeownership. First is the common perception that “once an owner, always an owner,” the second is that homeownership accompanied by house price appreciation will facilitate additional wealth accumulation. In the first assumption, the authors find that after a spell of homeownership many people return to renting or other tenure options such as living with their parents and many do not return to homeownership. Indeed, the authors conclude that programs that seek to sustain homeownership may do more to boost the national homeownership rate than first-time homebuyer programs. In the second assumption, they find homeownership does facilitate wealth accumulation but that for low-and moderate-income households, home price appreciation increases debt, and that additional debt appears to be used primarily to finance expenditures on goods such as cars or appliances, rather than additional financial assets, thus limiting the impact on overall wealth. “*The Impact of House Price Appreciation on Portfolio Composition and Savings*” can be found at [www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/housepriceimpact.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/housepriceimpact.html). “*The Sustainability of Homeownership: Factors Affecting the Duration of Homeownership and Rental Spells*” can be found at [www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/homeownsustainability.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/affhsg/homeownsustainability.html).

**NLIHC’s 2005 Advocates’ Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy**  
The Guide covers all major housing programs, issues, and planning processes. Each chapter includes historical context, information about the program’s current structure and operation, and details about policy issues in play in the current Congress and budget cycle. Available at [www.nlihc.org/advocates](http://www.nlihc.org/advocates).

**Surplus Properties Available for Homeless Assistance**  
HUD has released a list of federal properties identified as underutilized, excess or surplus, and therefore potentially available for homeless assistance purposes. For more information, visit <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-9832.htm>.

**Fair Market Rents Assessed, Explained**  
The GAO study, “*Rental Housing: HUD Can Improve Its Process for Estimating Fair Market Rents,*” finds that FMRs have been reasonably accurate despite numerous hurdles in their formulation and that the future inclusion of American Community Survey (ACS) data will likely improve their accuracy. The GAO recommends, however, that HUD instead use data for smaller geographic areas that are closer to the actual FMR areas, currently state-level data. The report also found that HUD has not followed its own data quality guidelines relating to objectivity by not providing sufficient detail on how FMRs are currently calculated. In response, HUD has released “*2005 Fair Market Rent Documentation System.*” This system provides detailed data sources and formulas used in the formulation of FMRs for every FMR area in the US. The GAO Report can be found at: [www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-05-342](http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-05-342). The HUD Report can be found at: [www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/fmrs/select\\_Geography.odb](http://www.huduser.org/datasets/fmr/fmrs/select_Geography.odb).

**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](mailto:susanfrancis@cohhio.org) or 614-280-1984.

**Hope is Everywhere, Artwork by Children in Transition - Columbus**  
On exhibit through July 30, a local artist has worked with children whose families have been affected by homelessness to create this exhibit expressing children’s hope for themselves, their families, and our world. The exhibit is being held in the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery, a non-profit gallery operated by Southeast, Inc. Recovery and Mental Health Care Services. For more information, visit [www.southeastinc.com](http://www.southeastinc.com).

**Rural Community Development Grants**  
Funds to provide training and technical assistance to community facilities on water and waste water management systems for small, rural low-income communities with low-income beneficiaries. Applications are due June 24, 2005. To view full announcement go to <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-8133.htm>.

**PBS Premieres "Aging Out"**

On May 26, PBS aired the documentary film, that follows the lives of three young people as they leave the foster care system and are mandated to exist on their own. The film reports that within two to four years of being discharged from foster care, 25 percent of former foster care youth experienced homelessness, 25 percent of the young men had been incarcerated and 60 percent of the young women had given birth to a child. The Director explains, "In making, *Aging Out*, I wanted to take viewers inside the embattled world of teenagers in foster care to reveal the tremendous obstacles they face as they try to become self-sufficient adults." Available at [www.pbs.org/wnet/agingout/index-hi.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/agingout/index-hi.html).

**Housing Discrimination Complaints Increased in 2004.**

HUD's 2005 State of Fair Housing Report says almost 9,200 complaints were received in 2004 by HUD and Fair Housing Assistance Program agencies, a 13 percent increase from 2003. Available at [www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/enforcement/fhmreport05.pdf](http://www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/enforcement/fhmreport05.pdf). The National Fair Housing Alliance examined data from these sources and others, finding a total of 27,319 complaints filed, but NFHA estimates there are 3.7 million instances of housing discrimination each year. Its 2005 Fair Housing Trends Report is at [www.nationalfairhousing.org](http://www.nationalfairhousing.org).

**Obstacles Faced During Reentry From Prison and Jail**

The challenges faced by men and women returning from correctional facilities were the focus of a *Wall Street Journal* article. The *Journal* followed several returning offenders and noted the obstacles they faced as they tried to rebuild their lives including: inability to access public housing; difficulty getting licensed in jobs which they had trained for while in prison; difficulty obtaining identification; and restriction from receiving federal financial aid for higher education. Housing is one area in which many ex-offenders find themselves out of luck. The federal government places a small number of limitations on ex-offenders living in public housing, but many local housing authorities have stricter restrictions. To read the *Wall Street Journal* article visit [http://online.wsj.com/article\\_email/0,,SB111690042392741404-INjeoNklaF4np2taXulcaqDm4,00.html](http://online.wsj.com/article_email/0,,SB111690042392741404-INjeoNklaF4np2taXulcaqDm4,00.html).

**Distressed Public Housing - The Costs of Doing Nothing - Urban Institute**

Highlights the costs of failing to address severely distressed public housing developments. Argues four main points. First, distressed developments cost more to operate and maintain than do normal public housing units. Second, the authors find that distressed public housing has been shown to concentrate poverty in inner-city neighborhoods and discourage investment in those areas, which in turn decreases property values and local property tax revenues. The third point the report makes is that residents and families living in distressed areas are at risk of exposure to negative activities, potentially affecting their health and behavior. Finally, resident distress increases the burden on public programs, a negative externality for all taxpayers. Available at [www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411159\\_Costs\\_of\\_Inaction.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411159_Costs_of_Inaction.pdf).

**Stuck In Minimum Wage Jobs - Center for Economic and Policy Research**

Looks at prime-age workers (ages 25 to 54) working in minimum wage jobs. "No Way Out: How Prime-Age Workers Get Trapped in Minimum Wage Jobs" shows that these workers get stuck in minimum wage jobs, remaining in low-wage jobs for at least three years. Available at: [www.cepr.net/publications/labor\\_markets\\_2005\\_05.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/publications/labor_markets_2005_05.pdf).

**Policy Summit - June 22-23 - Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of an Ownership Society, Cleveland**

Examine the changing roles and expectations of community development practitioners at banks, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies as they strive to meet the needs of low-to-moderate-income people. \$95-\$120. For more information contact the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland at [www.clevelandfed.org/PolicySummit2005](http://www.clevelandfed.org/PolicySummit2005).

**Working Families's Housing Needs Rising - Two Reports**

"The Housing Landscape for America's Working Families 2005" reports the number of working families paying over 50 percent of their income for housing grew by 76 percent from 1997 to 2003. "Something's Gotta Give: Working Families and the Cost of Housing" describes the relationship between housing costs and payments for other necessities. Free at [www.nhc.org/index/chp-newsroom-events](http://www.nhc.org/index/chp-newsroom-events).

**Community Food and Nutrition Grants Available**

These funds are provided to help improve communities, coordination of private and public food assistance resources, assist low-income communities initiate child nutrition programs in underserved communities and develop innovative state and local practices to meet the nutritional needs of low-income individuals. Deadline is June 17, 2005. For more information, visit [www.communitynutrition.org](http://www.communitynutrition.org).

**Center for Housing Policy Releases 2005 Working Families Report**

Finds that between 1997 and 2003 there has been a 67 percent increase in the number of low-and moderate-income working families facing critical housing needs, spending more than half of their income on housing or living in physically dilapidated units. The report concludes, "contrary to conventional wisdom, housing problems are not confined to cities, renters, or the nation's coasts," and that "working a full time job does not guarantee a family a decent, affordable place to live." This report highlights the growing housing cost burdens and other housing problems faced by low-and moderate-income working families. The report can be found at [www.nhc.org/housing/pubs-descriptions](http://www.nhc.org/housing/pubs-descriptions).

**AGreener Plan for Affordable Housing**

Released by The Enterprise Foundation, it shows that state housing agencies are encouraging affordable homebuilders to utilize a wide range of "green building" practices to make homes healthier, more efficient and more sustainable. It summarizes elements in state plans for allocating federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Housing Credits) in the areas of smart site locations, energy and resource efficiency, and healthy living environments. The report is available at [www.GreenCommunitiesOnline.com](http://www.GreenCommunitiesOnline.com).

**HUD Housing Programs: Tenants' Rights**

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) has released the third edition of "*HUD Housing Programs: Tenants' Rights*." It is a comprehensive guide to federal housing programs. It explains and analyzes applicable laws central to representing tenants assisted by HUD programs, including public housing, subsidized rental housing, vouchers, and other programs. Available for a discounted price until June 30, 2005. For more information, visit [www.nhlp.org](http://www.nhlp.org).

**Justice Department Releases Report on Growth of U.S. Prison and Jail Populations**

The number of inmates in the nation's prisons and jails increased by 48,452 to 2,131,180 between midyear 2003 and midyear 2004, according to the report. Jail inmates increased by 3.3 percent, state prisoners by 1.3 percent, and federal prisoners by 6.3 percent, according to the report, which also includes total numbers for prison and jail inmates by gender and race, as well as counts of jail inmates by conviction status and confinement status. The report showed that 1,348 out of every 100,000 males in the United States and 123 out of every 100,000 women were in prison or jail as of June 30, 2004. It further revealed that "an estimated 12.6 percent of all black males in their late twenties were in prisons or jails, compared to 3.6 percent of Hispanic males and 1.7 percent of white males." "*Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004*" (NCJ-208801) is available at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim04.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim04.htm).

**HUD Releases Annual Homeless Assessment Report Update**

Fourth update on the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), including a comprehensive list of geocodes, CoC codes, and FIPS codes associated with the AHAR communities. Also provides an Excel spreadsheet to help communities calculate bed coverage for the local AHAR report and information on which providers, clients, and beds should be included in the AHAR. This and other HUD resources on HMIS are available at [www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/hmis/index.cfm).

**Community Economic Development Operational Projects Grants**

Funds to provide technical and financial assistance for economic development activities designed to address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families by creating employment and business development opportunities. Applications are due June 17, 2005. To view full announcement go to <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-7475.htm>

**YEP 2005 Graduates!**

Congratulations to Becka, Caroline, Woody, and Kiko! Keep up the good work and good luck as you move forward! page 8 of 10

**COHHIO Position Available - Managing Director**

Purpose: To assist the Executive Director in the overall administration of the organization. To assist the Executive Director in the development, planning, and implementation of the organization's ends policies. Must be able to substitute for the Executive Director in both administrative matters as well as policy issues.

Qualifications: Requires administrative experience, leadership ability, and organizational skills. Work independently, as a team leader, and as part of a team. Must maintain a high degree of accuracy, integrity, and confidentiality in the overall performance of job duties. Excellent writing and public speaking skills required. General understanding of program/personnel administration, fund raising, public policy development, and community organizing is required. Bachelors degree or higher is required.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Administration: Responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of COHHIO (i.e. systematize office procedures, provide general staff support, etc.);
- Human Resources Managemen;:
- Supervision;
- Training & Technical Assistance;
- Housing Policy Advocacy;
- Community Reinvestment; and
- Operational Support.

Supervision and Compensation: The Managing Director reports directly to the Executive Director. Salary with health insurance, 403(b) plan and paid leave benefits. Hours: Full time, evening or weekend hours may be necessary to fulfill duties. Some travel will be required, primarily within Ohio.

If interested, please submit a cover letter and resume to Bill Faith at COHHIO at billfaith@cohhio.org, 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus Ohio 43215 or fax to 614-463-1060. No phone calls.

Full job description available on the COHHIO web page at [www.cohhio.org/aboutus/jobs.html](http://www.cohhio.org/aboutus/jobs.html).

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**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**

- Corporation for Supportive Housing:** [www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)
- Housing Assistance Council:** [www.ruralhome.org](http://www.ruralhome.org)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness:** [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)
- 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-Republicans); 614/644-1982 (fax - Democrats)
- 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).

COHHIO Staff

- Bill Faith, Executive Director - [billfaith@cohhio.org](mailto:billfaith@cohhio.org)
- Susan Francis, Communications and Development Coordinator - [susanfrancis@cohhio.org](mailto:susanfrancis@cohhio.org)
- Paula Jenkins, HMIS Support Coordinator - [paulajenkins@cohhio.org](mailto:paulajenkins@cohhio.org)
- Cathy Johnston, Special Projects and Advocacy Coordinator - [cathyjohnston@cohhio.org](mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org)
- Angela Lariviere, Youth Empowerment Coordinator- [angelalariviere@cohhio.org](mailto:angelalariviere@cohhio.org)
- Mary Scott, Administrative Assistant - [maryscott@cohhio.org](mailto:maryscott@cohhio.org)
- Rick Taylor, Managing Director - [ricktaylor@cohhio.org](mailto:ricktaylor@cohhio.org)
- Ande Ucubagabriel, Finance Director - [andeucubagabriel@cohhio.org](mailto:andeucubagabriel@cohhio.org)
- Spencer Wells, Tenant Outreach Coordinator - [spencerwells@cohhio.org](mailto:spencerwells@cohhio.org)
- Jeannette Welsh, Housing + Services Coordinator - [jeannettewelsh@cohhio.org](mailto:jeannettewelsh@cohhio.org)

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**Newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)**  
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COHHIO is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income people and those with special needs.

**Mailing address and email updates should go to [susanfrancis@cohhio.org](mailto:susanfrancis@cohhio.org).**