



# HOME MATTERS TO OHIO



# NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD ON THE TRUST

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund forms the foundation of state efforts to fight homelessness and expand access to housing for all Ohioans.

The Ohio Housing Trust Fund helps make home a reality for hundreds of thousands of the state's most vulnerable residents by supporting services for the homeless, affordable housing development, emergency home repair and accessibility modifications. At the same time, the Trust Fund boosts the economy and helps revitalize local communities across the state.

## OUT OF REACH



Housing is by far the most expensive item in the family budget and is simply out of reach for many Ohioans. Nearly one in three Ohio households are "housing cost-burdened," overcrowded, or living in functionally substandard housing. More than 400,000 renter households now spend more than half of their income on rent.

Ohioans need to earn at least \$14.45/hour to afford rent for a basic, two-bedroom apartment. One-bedroom apartments in every county of Ohio are unaffordable for people working full-time at the state minimum wage of \$8.10/hour.

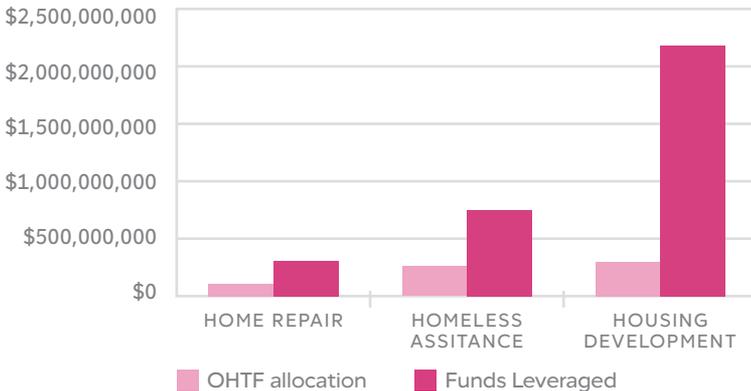
Meanwhile, federal housing assistance has steadily decreased in recent decades to the point where only one in four eligible residents actually receive it. So it's not surprising that approximately 65,000 Ohioans sought homeless assistance services in 2014, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.

### THE TRUST FUND WORKS:

During its 25-year history, the Trust Fund has provided nearly \$800 million for local programs that serve people struggling with homelessness and housing instability. Each Trust Fund dollar leverages far more in federal and private sources; in fact, the Trust Fund's total \$770 million investment has drawn down nearly \$3.8 billion for Ohio's economy.

Trust Fund resources flow to every part of the state and are awarded to local homelessness and housing programs on a competitive basis. State law requires at least 50 percent of the available funding flow to rural areas on an annual basis.

### OHTF ECONOMIC IMPACT 1992 - 2015



State leaders now have an opportunity to build a stronger home base for homeless veterans, women at risk of infant mortality, Ohioans with disabilities, seniors with fixed incomes and the many working families struggling to make ends meet. Now is the time to build on the success of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

### THE GREAT RECESSION'S IMPACT ON THE TRUST FUND:

The Trust Fund has remained flat-funded for the past 13 years and often falls short of the original \$50 million/year goal because revenue decreases when the housing market slumps and the need for assistance increases. The economic recession took a toll on the Fund and it has not recovered; fee revenues decreased from a high of \$73 million in fiscal year 2005 to \$43.7 million in FY 2016.

### OHIO HOUSING TRUST FUND REVENUE



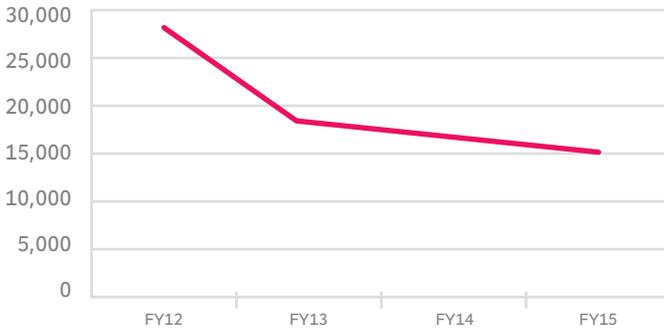
As fee revenue declined in recent years, so has the Trust Fund’s support for various homelessness and housing initiatives. Total appropriations decreased nearly 21 percent from \$53 million in FY 2013 to \$42 million in FY 2017.

### TRUST FUND ALLOCATIONS



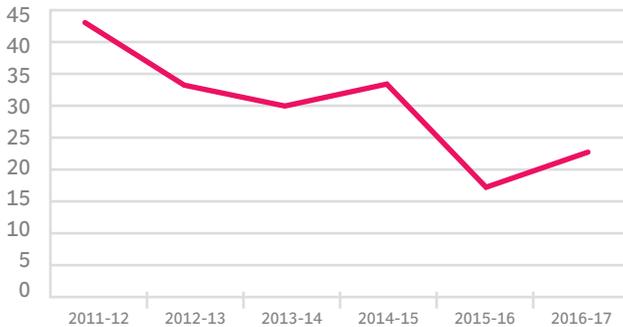
These reductions have had an impact on real people – fewer homeless Ohioans receive services and fewer housing units are developed for people struggling to afford a place to call home.

## HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



The total number of homeless households served by local agencies funded through Trust Fund dollars decreased from 28,505 in FY 2012 to 15,860 in FY 2015, a 44 percent reduction. Meanwhile, the number of Trust Fund supported affordable housing development and rehabilitation projects dropped from 42 projects in the 2011-12 program year to only 23 in 2016-17.

## DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED



The decrease in Trust Fund resources for homeless and housing services adds strain to other state-supported public assistance programs and services. For example, permanent supportive housing for adults who were chronically homeless or institutionalized has been shown to prevent far greater expenditures on hospitals, mental health facilities, child welfare, addiction services, courts and jails and other public systems.

# **GREATER INVESTMENT = A STRONGER, HEALTHIER OHIO**

Given the proven success of the Trust Fund over the past quarter century, the Home Matters to Ohio campaign is calling for a significant expansion of the program to meet not only Ohio's housing needs but to address other problems in the state.



A growing body of research shows that housing exerts a significant influence on several major public policy issues:

### **HEALTH**

Substandard and unstable housing is linked to serious health conditions such as asthma, lead poisoning, food insecurity, chronic disease, mental health issues, and substance abuse. Decent housing is essential for children's health, including state efforts to lower infant mortality.

### **EDUCATION**

Children who experience housing instability are more likely to drop out, repeat grades, perform poorly in tests, disengage in the classroom, and suffer from learning disabilities and behavioral problems.

### **CHILD WELFARE**

The risk of foster care placement among children from homeless families is 34 times greater than the rate for children who are housed. Ensuring children have a stable place to call home also helps curb the cycle of adult homelessness.

### **ECONOMY**

Increasing investment in affordable housing has a positive impact on the economy. Each development dollar the Trust Fund invests leverages more than \$9 in private and federal matching funds and generates nearly \$15 in overall economic activity for the state.

Expanding the Ohio Housing Trust Fund will create a stronger foundation for the economy, lead to better outcomes for health care, education and child welfare, while making home a reality for thousands of vulnerable Ohioans.

**CLEARLY, NOW IS THE  
TIME TO BUILD ON THE TRUST.**



We are proud supporters of Home Matters®,  
a national movement uniting America around Home.