



# BREAKING GROUND

News from The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

Spring 2017

This has been a busy spring season for COHHIO. I just wanted to take a moment to share with you a few of the things we've been working on lately.

First, the good news: we're making progress on one of COHHIO's main priorities - expanding the [Ohio Housing Trust Fund](#). Working with our allies in the Home Matters to Ohio campaign, we managed to get an amendment in the state budget that would adjust county recording fees to strengthen the Trust Fund.

The Trust Fund amendment still has to survive the Senate's budget process and the governor's veto pen. But we're working to ensure the final budget bill will bolster this critical resource for local homeless and affordable housing programs throughout the state.

The Housing Trust Fund has been one of the state's most effective policy solutions. This amendment will keep us all moving toward the goal of ending homelessness in Ohio. Thanks for doing your part in the community.

- Bill Faith, Executive Director



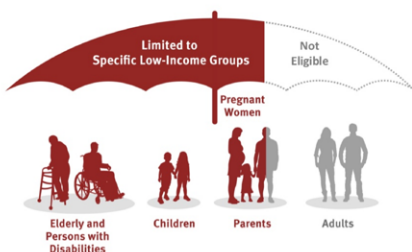
To read a more detailed update on the [Home Matters to Ohio campaign](#), or any of the other stories below, click on the blue links to find more information on our website.

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## Medicaid Expansion

COHHIO [just released a report](#) detailing how Ohio's move to expand Medicaid in 2014 has made a positive impact on efforts to reduce homelessness. Many of you shared your personal stories, some of which were incorporated into the report - thanks for your help!


Prior to the ACA, Medicaid eligibility was limited to specific low-income groups.



We're sharing our findings with state and federal policymakers, who are considering some drastic changes to the Medicaid program that could seriously hinder the forward progress we've made fighting homelessness in recent years. While the state budget includes some positive proposals, we're concerned about the direction they're going with Medicaid. [Click here for more information.](#)

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## Housing Ohio Conference

 [Housing Ohio 2017](#) was our biggest conference ever, with 568 attendees, 30 workshops, and three Housing Institutes! COHHIO would like to thank our workshop presenters, our keynote speakers, our sponsors and, of course, everyone who attended Housing Ohio 2017.

**Mark your calendar now for next year's conference on April 9-11, 2018.**

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## Ohio SOAR Update

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program has helped thousands of Ohioans access the disability benefits they need to help maintain their housing, health, and financial stability. Nationally, [the Ohio SOAR program](#) stands out as first in the nation for applications submitted and a close second for approvals granted.

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## Andriena's Story

Earlier this year, Andriena called COHHIO's [Housing Information Line \(888-485-7999\)](#) because she was facing possible eviction. [Click here](#) to find out how COHHIO's Affordable and Fair Housing Coordinator, Joe Maskovyak, Esq. helped Andriena exercise her legal rights as a tenant.

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## In Other Developments...

We've been keeping an eye on some of the innovative developments in affordable housing around the state, like Terrace Place, Community Housing Network's new collaborative project with the Ohio State University in Columbus's Weinland Park neighborhood. [Click here to read more about this and other developments.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

COHHIO has several training opportunities coming up. To see a complete listing, visit our [online calendar page](#).

- **Bridges:** [Housing and Supports for Youth Who Have Emancipated from Foster Care](#). May 30 at 11 a.m.
- **Harm Reduction:** [Incorporating Harm Reduction in Your Program](#). June, 27 at 1 p.m.

If you would like to receive regular updates on upcoming training opportunities, send an email to COHHIO's Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator [Josh Johnson](#). Here are a few other upcoming events on our radar:

- CSH's [Supportive Housing Summit 2017](#) in Denver, Colorado, May 24-26
- NAEH's [National Conference on Ending Homelessness](#) in Washington, DC, July 17-19

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*For more information about COHHIO, visit [our website](#) and check out our [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#). To support COHHIO's ongoing efforts to end homelessness in Ohio, [become a member](#) and get a discount on next year's conference!*