



BREAKING GROUND

News from The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

Winter 2018

The Trump administration's budget proposal came out earlier this month and its bad news for housing and homeless advocates. The president [wants to cut HUD's budget](#) by \$8.8 billion, or 18.3 percent.

The good news is, this is just a proposal that still has to get through the House and Senate. And it comes just weeks after Congress approved a bipartisan deal to lift austere spending caps that have starved HUD programs for years. With \$131 billion in new domestic spending authority, this is the first opportunity to increase federal funding for housing and homeless services in a very long time.

That's why we drafted [this sign-on letter](#) asking Ohio's Congressional Delegation to support increased funding for rental assistance, homeless grants, public housing, Community Development Block Grants, HOME and the National Housing Trust Fund. We're asking nonprofits, businesses, and organizations throughout the state to add their names to the Ohio Homes, Ohio Voices sign-on letter.

Then we'll work with local agencies and advocates to hand-deliver the letter to their Congressional members' district offices during the [National Housing Week of Action](#) in May 1-8. That's when advocates stage events throughout the nation to draw attention to the importance of safe, decent, affordable housing.

So if you're in a position to sign your organization's name to this sign-on letter, please do so now. And if you'd like to participate in an event to deliver the letter to your member of Congress, please call or email our [Advocacy Director Gina Wilt](#) at 614-280-1984.



In addition to making the case for a healthier HUD budget, we have to tell legislators why the administration's plans to increase rents and impose work

requirements on people with housing assistance are counterproductive. Raising the rent on people who are already struggling to make ends meet will make it harder for them to keep a job and stay healthy because they'll have less money to pay for things like transportation, medicine and childcare.

The president's budget revives out-of-date, inaccurate stereotypes of poor people. The fact is, [nearly 90 percent of households](#) with rental assistance are elderly, disabled, or already working. The problem is not that people with housing assistance don't work. It's that working people can't afford housing without assistance in this low-wage, part-time economy.

Thanks, as always, for supporting our efforts to end homelessness in Ohio. I hope to see you at the ***Housing Ohio 2018 conference on April 9-11!***

-Bill Faith, Executive Director

[Register Now](#) for the *Housing Ohio 2018* Conference

The early bird registration discount is still available for COHHIO's annual statewide conference April 9-11 that focuses on fighting homelessness and tackling housing insecurity in Ohio.



During Monday and Tuesday, the first two days of the conference, we offer attendees a choice of 30 workshops on a wide variety of subjects taught by acclaimed professionals working both on the front lines and behind the scenes to end homelessness in their communities. On Wednesday we will present three Housing Institutes, intensive, full-day sessions that delve deeply into the subject matter.

For our plenary session on Monday, COHHIO is pleased to welcome Megan Gibbard Kline, director of A Way Home America, a national campaign to prevent and end youth homelessness. We will also hear from young people serving on the Youth Action Board in their communities, and will recognize the 50th Anniversary of the federal

Fair Housing Act. For more information visit [COHHIO's conference page](#).

President Trump's HUD Budget Would Increase Housing Insecurity

President Trump's Fiscal Year 2019 budget would cut HUD by \$8.8 billion, or 18.3 percent, according to [an analysis](#) by NLIHC. Under this proposal, Ohio would lose an estimated 8,411 Housing Choice vouchers which keep low-income working families, seniors, and people with disabilities stably housed. The budget would also raise rents and impose work requirements on people with rental assistance.

"Dr. Carson often talks about how decent, affordable housing is essential for people's health and well-being. Unfortunately, his boss's new budget is bad medicine at a time when more and more

Ohioans are struggling to pay the rent,” said Bill Faith, executive director of COHHIO. “Cutting HUD will increase housing insecurity and homelessness, which has negative health consequences and other bad outcomes for Ohio.”

[Click here for more information](#) President Trump’s proposed 18.3 percent cut to HUD programs for low-income Americans.

Slay the Gerrymander!

The 2018 elections promise to shakeup the state and national political scenes, starting with a ballot issue in May that could go a long way toward fixing Ohio’s system of gerrymandered Congressional districts.

COHHIO has supported the [Fair Districts = Fair Elections](#) coalition’s effort to reform the way state legislators redraw Congressional district maps to maximize their partisan advantage. Last year, the coalition launched a signature-gathering campaign to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot after years of being ignored by the state legislature. [Click here for more information](#).

COHHIO Launches Virtual Companion for Runaway & Homeless Youth

COHHIO’s Youth Housing Initiative recently Launched [Taking Charge](#), a new online tool to help young people who are living on their own figure out how to get help and learn about their basic legal rights and responsibilities.

COHHIO has received positive feedback and interest from various groups who serve youth in different capacities, including the Family and Youth Law Center, who want to make use of this new tool to better serve their clients. [Click here for more information](#).

State Releases \$26 Million in Homeless Grants

The Ohio Development Services Agency recently awarded grants totaling nearly \$26 million in state and federal funding to help 72 local agencies working to prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, and operate permanent housing initiatives.

The announcement generated some positive local media coverage, like a more than \$1 million [Homeless Crisis Response Program](#) grant to WSOS Community Action Commission to help provide homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services across a seven county region in Northwest Ohio. The Caring Kitchen Inc., which provides emergency shelter, a food pantry, tutoring, clothing and other services in Champaign County, also got [brief coverage](#) in the Springfield News-Sun about their \$109,500 grant. [Click here for more information](#).

A Snapshot of Homelessness in Your Community

Thanks to everyone who recently braved the col weather to find people living on the land in their communities for the annual Point-In-Time count, like these [volunteers with Columbus's Community Shelter Board and the Ashtabula County Continuum of Care](#).

While not a perfect census, the PIT Count is a helps us to better understand who is struggling with homelessness so that we can advocate for the resources necessary to provide homeless services, with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness in our community.

BoSCoC Launches Providers Peer Discussion Group

Over the past few years, Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care staff have rolled out a number of new standards, requirements, and processes including Homeless Program standards, Coordinated Entry standards and processes, and detailed Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory County requirements, among others.

In an effort to provide more tools to help providers understand all these requirements and how to implement them, the BoSCoC team has created a new email-based peer discussion group to enable providers to communicate with one another about whatever topics they choose. [Click here for more information](#).

Southeast Ohio Youth Homeless Project Seeks Partners

In early 2017, a team of service providers and system leaders representing a five-county region in Southeast Ohio (SEOH) were awarded funding as part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), a federal initiative to develop community responses to prevent and end youth homelessness. The SEOH YHDP region includes Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Meigs and Vinton counties.

As a part of this initiative a work group was formed with members from COHHIO, Sojourners, Integrated Services, and other individuals and organizations from the SEOH region to write a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to guide the implementation of new projects with the overall goal of ending youth homelessness in the five county YHDP area. [Click here for more information](#).

In Other Developments

Lighthouse Youth and Family Services cuts the ribbon for the Sheakley Center for Youth in Cincinnati, Woda opens the Wheatland Crossing in Columbus, CHN Housing Partners launches Hough Heritage in Cleveland. [Click here for more information](#).

Upcoming Events

COHHIO, with support from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will again offer its interactive Survey Says training targeted to professionals in the crisis response system, including Rapid Rehousing Providers, Case Managers, Coordinated Entry Staff, Managers, Directors, Emergency Shelter Professionals, and others.

The format is inspired by the Family Feud Game Show with content informed by providers from throughout the State of Ohio. Please consider joining us in a fun learning environment where participants will use scenarios to build and test their knowledge of best practice and share with other providers. [Click here for more information](#) on Survey Says trainings in Findlay on Feb. 27, Cincinnati on Mar. 7, and Zanesville on Mar. 14.

These and other upcoming training opportunities on [the COHHIO Calendar](#) include:

- Feb. 26 - BoSCoC Rapid Rehousing Standards: A Deeper Dive (webinar)
- Mar. 13 - BoSCoC Diversion Training of the Trainers (webinar)
- Mar. 14 - BoSCoC Regional Rapid Rehousing Standards (Washington Court House)
- Mar. 15 - BoSCoC Regional Rapid Rehousing Standards (Nelsonville)
- Mar. 20 - BoSCoC Regional Rapid Rehousing Standards (Findlay)
- Mar. 20 - Trauma Informed Strategies for Transition Age Youth (webinar)
- Mar. 22 - BoSCoC Regional Rapid Rehousing Standards (Kent)
- Mar. 22 - Fair Housing/Equal Access Rule (webinar)
- April 9-11 - [Housing Ohio Statewide Annual Conference](#)

We're Hiring!

COHHIO has an opening on our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) team. This position will join our existing team to expand support and service to HMIS end-users in the Ohio BoSCoC as part of our ongoing work to reduce and end homelessness. [Click here for more information](#).

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 our April conference!

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from COHHIO Advocates, please [click here](#).