

June 16, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine  
Riffe Center, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Gov. DeWine,

The coronavirus pandemic has really illustrated the intimate connection between stable housing and good health. We are gravely concerned that the economic recession will sever this connection for many Ohioans who are struggling to maintain their housing. **We call on your administration to deploy at least \$100 million from Ohio's federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for emergency rental assistance for unemployed tenants who are unable to pay their rent.**

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans have filed jobless claims in the past 11 weeks. Layoffs are disproportionately impacting lower income workers who rent their homes. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that more than 1.25 million Ohio renters have experienced income loss, including layoffs, pay cuts and furloughs. Local courts have resumed eviction hearings, and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (additional \$600 per week) is set to expire next month. **The facts are clear: without immediate and decisive action, Ohio faces a tsunami of evictions. We must not exacerbate this public health crisis with a flood of Ohioans entering our local homeless shelters.**

Fortunately, the federal CARES Act has provided Ohio with resources to prevent a full-blown housing crisis if we act now, as other states have done. For example, Pennsylvania's new COVID Relief Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program, which includes \$150 million federal CRF, provides a model for Ohio to provide emergency rental assistance.

We respectfully request the administration dedicate at least \$100 million in CRF to create an emergency rental assistance program to be administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and/or the Ohio Development Services Agency. These state agencies would partner with local nonprofits that have a strong track record of distributing housing assistance responsibly. Tenants would apply through these organizations for assistance that would be paid directly to their landlords. Given the breadth of demand and limited resources, this initiative should target tenants with the lowest incomes as assessed at the moment of application.

**Emergency rental assistance is critical for stabilizing Ohio's rental housing market.** Ohioans need help now to pay the rent, and landlords need rental income to pay their employees, mortgages, taxes and property maintenance costs.

Funding from the CRF must be spent by the end of 2020. In order to ensure the stability of tenants and property owners into next year, we further ask that the remaining \$37 million of Ohio's remaining supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CARES

Act) funding be earmarked for emergency rental assistance for rural, suburban, and urban communities.

We are hopeful that Congress will enact legislation to provide significantly more funding for emergency rental assistance. However, even if this proposal is enacted soon, it will take months before those resources flow to Ohio's tenants and rental property owners.

We implore you to quickly invest a portion of our state's federal emergency relief funds to keep Ohio's tenants and rental market healthy during this public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in  
Ohio  
Ohio Bankers League  
Ohio REALTORS  
Huntington Bank  
Cleveland Clinic  
Mount Carmel Health System  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical  
Center  
Ohio Mayors Alliance  
Ohio Credit Union League  
Ohio Real Estate Investors Association  
First Financial Bank  
Ohio Catholic Conference  
Ohio Housing Council  
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Ohio Association of Community Action  
Agencies  
Park National Bank  
RiverHills Bank  
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing  
Equitas Health  
Ohio Manufactured Homes Association  
Advocates for Ohio's Future  
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio  
Ohio Domestic Violence Network  
National Affordable Housing Trust  
Habitat for Humanity of Ohio  
National Church Residences  
Wallick Communities  
Dominium Apartments  
Ohio Association of Foodbanks  
Ohio CDC Association  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

Akron Cleveland Association of REALTORS  
Building Industry Association of Central  
Ohio  
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry  
Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Coalition  
Ohio Poverty Law Center  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Greater Ohio Policy Center  
Hunger Network in Ohio  
Carlyle Management Co.  
NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian  
Development  
The Community Builders  
YMCA of Central Ohio  
YWCA Greater Cincinnati  
Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority  
The Center for Family Safety and Healing  
Human Services Chamber of Franklin County  
Central Ohio Community Improvement  
Corporation  
Huckleberry House  
YWCA Columbus  
Policy Matters Ohio  
UHCAN Ohio  
Ohio Healthy Homes Network  
Northern Ohio Apartment Association  
614 Youth Prevention Agency LLC  
ACCESS  
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)  
Affordable Housing Advisors, LLC  
Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio

Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County  
Akron Leadership Foundation  
Aldridge Palay Group  
Alliance for Children and Families Inc.  
Area Agency on Aging District 7  
Artemis Center  
Aurora Project  
Barbara Poppe and Associates  
Battered Women's Shelter of Medina & Summit Counties  
BBC Development  
Beacon 360 Management  
Bethany House Services  
Butler Metro Housing Authority  
Caracole  
Caring Kitchen  
Center for Civic Engagement, University of Findlay  
Central Community House  
CHN Housing Partners  
Cincinnati Development Fund  
City of South Euclid  
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress  
Columbus City Councilwoman Shayla Favor  
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless  
Community Action Commission of Fayette County  
Community Development for All People  
Community Housing Network  
Community Housing Solutions  
Community Shelter Board  
Crisis Care Line  
Crooked River Action  
Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood/Invest In Children  
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus  
Daybreak, Inc.  
DPRA Architects  
Easter Seals Serving Greater Cincinnati  
Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County, Inc.  
EDEN Inc.  
Eleventh Candle Co.  
Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research

Fair Housing Contact Services  
Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc.  
Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation  
Famicos Foundation  
Family Abuse Shelter of Miami Co., Inc.  
Family Promise of Butler County  
Family Promise of Delaware  
Findlay Hope House for the Homeless, Inc.  
Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation  
First Year Cleveland  
Freedom a la Cart  
FrontLine Service  
FutureHeights  
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (WSOS)  
Grubers' Columbus Agency, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County  
Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning Valley  
Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio  
Healthy Homes  
Highland County Homeless Shelter  
Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Home Is The (HIT) Foundation  
Home Repair Resource Center  
Homeport  
Humility of Mary Housing  
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati  
Joseph's Home  
JOVIS  
Jurisdiction-Wide Resident Advisory Board  
Kings Local Food Pantry  
LakewoodAlive  
Licking County Coalition for Housing  
Lincoln Gardens Apartments  
LISC  
Lukens Solutions  
MACHDO  
Mahoning County Land Bank  
Make-A-Day Foundation  
Miami Valley Community Action Partnership  
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center  
MidTown Cleveland

MVAH Partners  
Neighborhood Housing Partnership of  
Greater Springfield  
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless  
Ohio Rep. Brigid Kelly  
OneEighty  
Operation Kindness  
Over-the-Rhine Community Housing  
Price Hill Will  
Pride Through Empowerment Foundation  
Providence House,  
Regional Housing Center  
Renter Mentor  
Resident Resources Network Inc.  
S.O.S. Initiatives, Inc.  
Saad & Saad LLP  
SourcePoint  
South Street Ministries  
Southeast Inc.  
St. Mary Development Corp.  
Strategic Opportunities  
Tender Mercies Inc.  
THE ABCD, INC  
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo  
The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.  
The Haven of Portage County  
The Homeless Families Foundation  
The Law Office of Rachel K. Robinson, LLC  
The Partnership Center, Ltd.  
The Well CDC  
Thriving Communities Institute  
Tidwell Group  
Tiffin-Seneca United Way  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
Vincentian Ohio Action Network  
Vogt Strategic Insights  
Warren Homes Rental Office  
West Park Kamm's Neighborhood  
Development  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
Yellow Springs Home, Inc.  
Yourkvitch & Dibo, LLC