



Position Title: Executive Director

Position Summary: The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio’s Board of Directors seeks a dynamic, experienced housing advocate to lead the organization and advance COHHIO’s mission of “ending homelessness and promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all with a focus on assisting low-income people and those with special needs.”

Position Purpose: The Executive Director is COHHIO’s primary spokesperson and is ultimately responsible for developing, planning, funding, and implementing the organization’s agenda for advocacy, education, training and technical assistance. The Executive Director is accountable to COHHIO’s Board of Directors.

About COHHIO: For nearly 30 years COHHIO has been the voice of Ohio’s underrepresented, pushing policymakers to recognize and address the state’s housing challenges. With roots stretching back to 1974, COHHIO was founded when two organizations merged in 1994. Outgoing Executive Director Bill Faith has led COHHIO ever since.

COHHIO has achieved national recognition as a strong, effective advocate with expertise at both the state and federal levels, and a competent administrator of government and private funding. COHHIO is in strong financial health with a dedicated staff of 24 full-time employees who are exceptionally experienced, self-motivated, creative and capable.

Externally, Ohio has received unprecedented levels of new federal funding to address homelessness and housing insecurity. This is a very exciting and challenging time as COHHIO has the opportunity to influence policy surrounding the implementation of these resources to help struggling Ohioans get and stay housed.

COHHIO’s primary areas of focus include:

- State advocacy – COHHIO is the lead advocate for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, which has provided over \$1 billion to local homelessness and housing services. COHHIO advocates at the Statehouse and with many state agencies on a variety of issues, ranging from Covid relief funds, the state budget, Low Income Housing Tax Credits allocations, to educating homeless youth;
- Federal advocacy – COHHIO works with national advocacy organizations and state counterparts to advocate for funding HUD’s homelessness and housing

programs, and improving regulations on fair housing, lending, and community development;

- Balance of State Continuum of Care – COHHIO is the lead coordinating agency to secure funding and policy implementation in Ohio’s 80 county non-urban homeless system;
- Training and Technical Assistance – COHHIO educates service providers about current evidence-based best practices on a wide range of homelessness/housing issues;
- Racial Equity – COHHIO promotes equitable solutions to historic racial inequities with a focus on Ohio’s homelessness and housing systems;
- Youth Housing Initiative – COHHIO helps government agencies and local providers reduce systemic barriers for homeless youth;
- SOAR Ohio – COHHIO helps Ohioans who are at risk of homelessness or living with disabilities obtain SSI/SSDI benefits to access permanent housing;
- Housing Now for Homeless Families – COHHIO distributes state TANF dollars to local agencies to rehouse families that are homeless or at-risk;
- Housing Information Line – COHHIO provides information about tenants’ legal rights and promotes fair housing protections throughout the state.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Policy Advocacy: Develop policy positions that align with COHHIO’s mission and communicate them effectively to the State legislature, Congressional delegation, administrative agencies, and the general public; provide leadership for grassroots action on federal and state housing and homelessness issues; support the development of local housing/homeless coalitions; serve as the primary liaison to other organizations concerned with housing and homelessness issues;
- Public Engagement: Represent COHHIO’s advocacy agenda through public speaking; serve as the primary media spokesperson; facilitate communications materials; educate stakeholders through conferences, workshops, meetings, newsletters, and other means;
- Fundraising: Work with the development/communications director to secure sufficient revenue to meet the Coalition’s budget through government and private foundation grants, conference sponsorships, and other funding sources;
- Administrative: Work in conjunction with the Managing Director to hire and supervise staff. Responsible for creating and managing the agency’s \$3.3M operating budget as well as the estimated \$16M in passthrough funds for 2022. Provide ongoing fiscal oversight; maintain the organization’s legal integrity; report to the Board of Directors.

Required Qualifications:

- Strong commitment to public policy advocacy that focuses on improving the lives of homeless and extremely low-income Ohioans through positive social change;

- 5 years' experience, at minimum, leading homelessness or affordable housing programs;
- Demonstrated ability and leadership experience supervising professional staff;
- Ability to provide effective leadership to community-based organizations and diverse constituencies; good organizing, policy analysis and excellent communications skills;
- Understanding of how discriminatory housing and lending practices have contributed to current inequities and a commitment to advance equitable practices;
- A minimum of a bachelor's degree or equivalent preferred;
- Residence in Central Ohio strongly preferred; some travel is required.

COHHIO fosters an inclusive, flexible, and affirming work culture, and strives for a diverse staff. The collective sum of individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, innovation, self-expression, and talent that our employees invest in their work advances our achievement and reputation. COHHIO especially welcomes applicants with lived experience related to our mission.

Compensation: The Executive Director reports directly to the Board of Directors, which determines salary and benefits. Salary is competitive with the experience of the candidate, the market and other comparable organizations and includes a generous retirement plan, high-quality health/dental benefits, and substantial paid vacation time.

Applying for this position

1. Send via email to EDSearch@cohhio.org
2. Subject line should read: Executive Director Search
3. Attach both resume and cover letter

COHHIO will acknowledge receipt of your submission.

This position was posted Dec. 23, 2021. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.