



## NEW COVID RELIEF FUNDING



# NEW HOUSING RESOURCES FOR LOCAL ADVOCATES

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) and other federal Covid response legislation created new resources that local advocates can use to address homelessness and housing insecurity in their communities.

## HOME - ARPA

HUD released a total of \$193 million in HOME-ARPA funds to the State, 14 Ohio cities, and 9 counties to assist people who are homeless or at-risk. Funds can be used to develop permanent housing options, including supportive housing, provide tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services, or purchase and develop non-congregate shelter.

More info: [HUD's HOME-ARPA web page](#).



## ARPA - LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

ARPA provided a combined \$2.24 billion in fiscal recovery funds to Ohio's cities and \$2.27 billion to the state's counties. It can be used for a wide variety of things, including creating affordable housing, providing homelessness services, supporting eviction diversion programs, funding local home repair programs, and other housing services. More info:

[NLIHC's ARPA web page](#).

## EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT - CV

The CARES Act appropriated a combined \$47.5 million through the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program to 10 Ohio cities to respond to the pandemic's impact on their homeless population. State funds are still available and can be used for rapid rehousing, homeless prevention, emergency shelter, hotel stays, and other activities. More info: [HUD's ESG-CV web page](#).



## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The State and its 18 largest cities and counties received over \$1 billion to help at-risk tenants avoid eviction. Cities are briskly distributing funds through local nonprofits and court-based eviction diversion programs, but significant State funding remains unspent. Community based organizations can help deploy rent relief funding to prevent evictions.

More info: [COHHIO's ERA Guide](#)

## EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

16 of Ohio's public housing authorities (PHAs) received 1,522 new housing vouchers targeted exclusively for currently homeless individuals and families. PHAs, working with community organizations, administer Emergency Housing Vouchers. While implementation has been slow, advocates can urge their local PHAs to use EHV's to quickly house homeless residents. More info: [HUD's EHV web page](#).



*For any additional questions while trying to navigate these funding opportunities for your community, please reach out to COHHIO's Advocacy Director  
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# HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR NEW HOUSING RESOURCES

Any community effort to prevent and end homelessness requires collaboration with elected officials. For local advocates looking to navigate the system, here are some tips for getting started.

## WHERE TO START

Find out who your local, state, and federal officials are, then start building and maintaining relationships with your elected representatives. Also, get engaged in current affairs. To stay informed on the latest news regarding housing and homelessness issues in Ohio, check out COHHIO's New Clips. Sign up to receive the newsletter and advocacy updates on [COHHIO's homepage](#).



## HOW TO APPROACH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Identify the key officials for the specific issue you are trying to pursue. Reach out by phone, email, or set up an in-person meeting. You might not get a response until the second or third time, but don't give up. You might only meet with a staffer, but they can be extremely helpful. Be persistent and polite. Always end a meeting with a reason to follow up and stay in contact.

## WHAT TO SAY

Before you meet, research housing needs and solutions in your community. Begin your meeting with a simple introduction, explain what you and/or your organization does, what the community's housing needs are, and how the elected official has an opportunity to help people who are struggling to find affordable housing. Keep your message short and simple; anecdotes and examples can make a lasting impression.



## WHO TO CONTACT

In most cases, your mayor, city council members and county commissioners have the most influence over policy and spending of local resources in your community.

**City:** Search your city's website to find contact info for your mayor and city council, or start with this [municipality directory](#).

**County:** Most counties have three commissioners. Search this [Ohio county directory](#) to find your county government.

**State level:** Find [your state Representative and/or Senator](#)

## DON'T BE INTIMIDATED - THEY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your voice matters. It's your elected official's job to listen to you and address the issues that matter in their communities. They have the time for you and want to be accessible and available. We have to start somewhere. Small actions can lead to big changes in our communities.



See how COHHIO is advocating for ARPA funding [at the state level](#).

Here are three additional resources to check out when starting your advocacy work:

- National Low Income Housing Coalition's [Advocates Guide](#)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness's [toolkit](#)
- League of Women Voters' [Know Your Ohio Government](#)