



Ohio Housing Trust Fund Budget Amendment Facts

General Talking Points

All advocates can cite the following facts to urge their legislators to remove the House's budget amendment that would gut the Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) by removing the current requirement for counties to send OHTF fee revenue to the state.

The State administers the Ohio Housing Trust Fund to maximize resources for housing and homelessness services in every county. Moving to a county-by-county approach would:

- Create multiple layers of bureaucracy that would be extremely cumbersome for programs that serve people across multiple counties, and
- Decrease Ohio's overall housing resources by reducing the ability to leverage federal and private matching funds.

The OHTF has a 30+ year track record of accountability to ensure these funds are invested responsibly without impacting the state's general revenue fund.

- This amendment would create great uncertainty about how these funds would be used.

The legislature took significant steps to address Ohio's affordable housing shortage in the last budget by creating the state Low Income Housing Tax Credit and other pro-housing programs.

- This amendment would undermine that progress and limit the State's ability to respond effectively to the affordable housing crisis.

This vague, unvetted proposal creates great uncertainty for local efforts to reduce homelessness and create more affordable housing.

- We urge the legislature to take the time necessary to understand the full implications of this approach by removing the amendment and creating a study committee to thoroughly evaluate the OHTF.

Affordable Housing Providers

If your project includes funding from OHFA's Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP), it likely includes OHTF dollars. Tell your legislator how that OHTF-funded project helps house their vulnerable constituents.

State agencies coordinate to leverage OHTF resources with state and federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, federal HOME funds, and other sources to finance affordable housing development.

- The OHTF is a critical source of gap financing to make units affordable to lower income households
- OHTF-funded projects require a 1:1 match from other public and private sources
- Each \$1 from the [OHTF leverages \\$3.71](#) in federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, federal HOME dollars, local government agencies and private financing
- Each \$1 from the OHTF generates \$9.55 in overall economic activity for Ohio

In FY 2024, the OHTF provided funding to develop and rehab 523 affordable rental units throughout Ohio.

Few counties have the capacity to meet the match requirement and leverage all the various funding sources needed for affordable housing development.

Removing state coordination of the OHTF has the potential to be catastrophic for affordable housing development, especially for projects already underway or in the pipeline.

Homeless Services Providers

If your program receives funding from the Ohio Department of Development's Homeless Crisis Response Program or Supportive Housing Program, it likely comes from the OHTF. Tell your legislator how your OHTF-funded program helps stabilize their vulnerable constituents and move them out of homelessness.

The OHTF is a critical source of funding for homeless services operations, especially in rural areas that don't receive federal homeless grant funds.

The OHTF supports emergency shelters, case management, rapid rehousing, and supportive housing to help families, youth, veterans, and people with disabilities escape homelessness in our community.

In FY 2024, the OHTF helped fund:

- Emergency shelter for over 27,000 Ohioans
- Supportive housing to keep 2,696 formerly homeless households safely housed
- Homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services for 3,449 households

Many homeless programs cover multiple counties. This amendment would require us to navigate a different application process in each county, reducing overall funds for people who need help.

Home Repair Services

If your program receives funding from the Housing Assistance Grant Program (HAGP) or the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP), it likely includes OHTF dollars. Tell your legislator how your OHTF-funded program helps keep their vulnerable constituents safely housed.

The OHTF is a critical source of funding for home repair and accessibility modifications for vulnerable people in our community.

These OHTF-funded programs allow seniors and people with disabilities to continue living in their own homes instead of nursing homes and institutions.

In FY 2024, the OHTF helped fund home repair and accessibility modifications to over 1,600 units throughout Ohio.

Many home repair programs cover multiple counties. This amendment would require us to navigate a different application process in each county, reducing overall funds for people who need help.