

Breaking Ground

The Monthly Newsletter of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

..... January 2003

Now More than Ever...It is Time to Push

Soon the budget process will formally start with the Governor's budget for State Fiscal Years 2004-2005 due out the week of February 3rd. The next state budget will be one of toughest since World War II, with a projected \$4 billion shortfall.

To make matters worse, months of tax revenues coming in below expectations due to the ongoing recession has resulted in a shortfall of \$720 million just to finish the current fiscal year, which ends June 30th, 2003. That means the legislature will be working on a 2003 budget correction bill and the budget bill for 2004-2005 in the coming weeks.

Rumors are flying around the statehouse as to what will be included in the administration's version of these bills. Increased taxes on cigarettes, alcohol, gasoline, and sales taxes on real estate commissions, title agent, appraisal, and property manager fees are just a few of the revenue issues being discussed. And unfortunately, big cuts in state programs are also on the table.

We now have a good idea of how homelessness and housing programs will be handled in the administration's budget proposal. In spite of all the doom and gloom, first some good news. Permanent and dedicated funding for Ohio's Housing Trust Fund will be included in the Governor's budget. The proposal is likely to be a doubling of the recordation fee dedicated specifically to the Trust Fund, which once fully implemented, will produce about \$40 million per year.

This is a huge victory but before we celebrate, it is important to understand, that a \$40 million annual funding level for the Trust Fund will not produce as much of an increase in overall housing resources from the state as it may at first appear. The proposal will also include the elimination of state general revenue and other funds for ALL housing and homelessness programs including the Trust Fund, Shelter Grants, Transitional Housing Grants, CDC Grants, the TANF Housing Program and the Affordable Housing Loan programs administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). Therefore, the picture in the Administration's budget proposal for key housing and homelessness programs will look something like this:



Key Housing Programs	Approved SFY 02-03	After Cuts SFY 02-03	Projected SFY 04-05 ⁽¹⁾
638 Ohio Housing Trust Fund	\$43.6	\$38.5	\$70.0 ⁽²⁾
440 Emergency Shelter Grant ⁽³⁾	\$5.5	\$4.8	\$ 0
406 Transitional Hsg for the Homeless ⁽³⁾	\$5.4	\$4.7	\$ 0
431 CDC Grant Program ⁽³⁾	\$4.8	\$4.3	\$ 0
497 TANF Housing Program ⁽⁴⁾	\$11.7	\$11.7	\$ 0
Subtotal	\$71.0	\$64.0	\$70.0
OHFA Affordable Housing Loans ⁽⁵⁾ (Cash Value from Unclaimed Funds)	\$38.4	\$28.8	\$ 0
Total	\$107.4	\$92.8	\$70.0

⁽¹⁾ Projected SFY 04-05 cannot be confirmed until the administration releases both the budget spreadsheets (blue book) and the actual legislation (language changes) expected to be out by the first or second week in February.

⁽²⁾ While it is estimated that the recordation fee increase will generate \$40 million annually, in the first year about \$30 million will be received during the transition period.

⁽³⁾ While the administration is proposing to not use general revenue funds to fund these programs, we anticipate that language will be included which sets a percentage earmark of the Housing Trust Fund to pay for these programs.

⁽⁴⁾ All indications are that the administration is not expected to recommend any funding for the TANF Housing Program, as well as many of the other state earmarked TANF funded programs, due to other demands on TANF and the administration’s overall policy preference to distribute TANF funds through counties. The legislature may not support this position, which could enable us to make the case for continuing this program.

⁽⁵⁾ The Ohio Housing Finance Agency uses Unclaimed Funds to finance several affordable housing programs, which offer very low or zero percent loans for affordable housing development projects (see related story). The figures in the chart are the estimated cash value of these loans based on a five to one ratio of principal to cash value.

The state cannot reduce its overall funding for homelessness and housing efforts, particularly since we are seeing a loss of funds from other sectors – both private and public. For instance, due to changes from the 2000 Census, the federal HOME program will provide the State and local communities a reduction from last year’s total of \$79 million to approximately \$68 million this year.

In light of all of this, there are several priorities COHHIO and our allies will be fighting for during the budget debate in the legislature.

1.) Support the recording fee increase to be solely dedicated to fund the Housing Trust Fund. Permanent and dedicated funding for Ohio’s Housing Trust Fund is not only a good idea whose time has finally come, it is absolutely necessary in order to avert a total crisis for Ohio’s housing efforts. An increase in the recordation fee, which will cause minimal bureaucratic burden with an average cost per transaction of only \$15.38, is the most viable funding option available.

2.) Push to restore the general revenue funds for the Emergency Shelter Grants, Transitional Housing Grants, and the CDC Grant programs. As noted above, the administration is proposing to earmark a percentage of the Housing Trust Fund to pay for these programs but that just puts more demands on already over-subscribed programs. The Housing Trust Fund was never intended to pay for emergency shelters and many of the activities supported by the CDC Grant Program. During a time of recession, with increased unemployment and economic uncertainty, now is **NOT** the time to cut basic safety net programs such as emergency shelter and transitional housing. Without adequate funding for all of the programs, we risk taking one step forward and multiple steps back.

3.) Restore some general revenue funds for the Housing Trust Fund, particularly in the first year of the budget, in order to provide for bridge funding until the Recordation Fee increase is actually received. For example, even if the recordation fee increase took effect on July 1st, 2003, the Housing Trust Fund would not receive any funds until the end of October.

4.) Explore the continuation of the TANF Housing Program, a significant source of funds of housing related services. Key members of the legislature established the TANF Housing Program and may be willing to continue this effort.

Momentum for Dedicated Funds is Growing

In little more than two months, COHHIO has received well over 700 endorsements for increasing the recordation fee for the Housing Trust Fund from non-profits, local governments, businesses, civic, labor, and religious organizations from almost every county in the state. From the Adams County Homeless Shelter to National City Bank, Ohioans are beginning to speak up.

There is great news from the Director’s Affordable Housing Task Force. Since the Taft Administration appears to be including the increase in the recordation fee for the Housing Trust Fund in their state budget, the Ohio Development Director Bruce Johnson recently asked the Housing Task Force for their position on this issue. The Housing Task Force, which includes a very broad range of constituency groups involved in the housing industry, took a formal vote on the two key aspects of the Housing Trust Fund proposal. The first was, support for a Permanent and Dedicated Source (revenue mechanism not identified) for the Housing Trust Fund. The vote was unanimous. The second was support for the use of increased funds from doubling the County Recordation Fee to be used as the dedicated source. The vote was 18 in favor, 2 neutral and 1 not in favor. Some key groups who voted in favor include the Ohio Association of Realtors, the Ohio Apartment Owners Association, and some lenders. The Ohio Mortgage Bankers Association expressed their opposition to the proposal because of the added costs when they sell the mortgages on the secondary market.

While more than 700 non-profits, local governments, businesses, civic, labor, and religious organizations have signed on in support of permanent and dedicated funding for Ohio’s Housing Trust Fund, the campaign needs your support now more than ever. If your organization has yet to endorse the campaign, now is the time to do so. If you have already signed on, take responsibility for getting at least five other local organizations to join. Many in the legislature are particularly impressed with the endorsements we have received from those in the business community and local government officials.

Please complete and return the Endorsement Form on the following page. Make copies. Take it to meetings. The future of Ohio’s housing and homeless programs is up to you.

Ohio Housing Trust Fund

“A permanent, dedicated funding source for affordable housing”

*** Endorsement Form ***

After the voters approved a Constitutional Amendment to make housing a public purpose in 1990, the Ohio General Assembly created the Housing Trust Fund in 1991. Two committees, one created by the General Assembly and one created by Governor Voinovich, recommended a funding level of \$50 million a year from various sources including an increase in the recordation fees. While this funding level has yet to be achieved, the General Assembly has appropriated a total of nearly \$160 million since 1991 and the Housing Trust Fund has achieved a solid record of success.

The Housing Trust Fund has proven to be a practical, cost effective and flexible way to help meet Ohioans’ affordable housing needs. The Ohio Department of Development has distributed the funds to:

- help families with a down payment to buy their first home;
- build and rehabilitate homes and apartment units for working families;
- modify homes for accessibility for handicapped or elderly Ohioans;
- prevent homelessness through short-term rent and mortgage assistance; and
- provide housing counseling and/or other housing related supportive services to help Ohioans maintain housing or achieve home ownership.

Non-profit organizations, private developers, lenders, and local governments are eligible to participate in Housing Trust Fund programs. The Housing Trust Fund is unique in that funds are targeted to assist Ohio’s neediest households – those with incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income, with a preference for projects that serve households with incomes at or below 35 percent of the median income.

he undersigned organization hereby endorses full funding for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, from a permanent and dedicated source of revenue such as increased recordation fees. I hereby give my permission to use my name and/or organization as an endorser of the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Campaign to obtain permanent, dedicated revenue in the next state budget.

Signature _____
 Name (please print) _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____ County _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-mail _____

**Please return to the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Campaign, c/o COHHIO,
35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215, 614/463-1060 fax**

Protect Unclaimed Funds for Housing Programs

Affordable Housing Loan Programs Face Elimination

In the budget correction bill passed last June, almost \$81 million in Unclaimed Funds was used to “plug” holes in the state budget. Now the administration is proposing to take another \$35 million in Unclaimed Fund in the latest SFY02-03 correction bill and we anticipate another large transfer of about \$25 million per year of Unclaimed Funds in the next budget for SFY 04-05. This does not leave enough in the Unclaimed Funds program to have an affordable housing loan program.

Background

The financing of affordable housing in Ohio involves a complex set of revenue sources. This is particularly true in the financing of affordable rental housing using the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. A mix of sources has been crafted over the past fifteen years in such a way that it makes the Ohio LIHTC program one of the most productive in the country, and one of the most targeted to families and individuals with the greatest need. As attempts are made to stabilize the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, it is important to protect existing state revenue sources that are critical to the development of affordable housing,

A key component of this financing model is STATE UNCLAIMED FUNDS. A portion of these funds has been used by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) to finance various low interest loan programs. Essentially, each revenue source applied to a housing development project helps to lower the rents to tenants. For better or worse, the development of affordable rental housing today involves an array of revenue sources that amount to a financing “sandwich”. When one layer of the sandwich is removed, rents have to rise. Historically, the Affordable Housing Loan Program has been used to make rents more affordable.

NO State Tax Dollars

The OHFA housing loan programs have been enormously successful, with over 300 loans totaling \$416 million over the past 10 years. These loans have financed 21,755 units of affordable housing since the program’s inception in 1987. The default rate on these loans is less than 0.5 percent. All of this has been accomplished without state tax dollars.

In real terms, the absence of these loans for rental housing developments will result in an increased cost to tenants of between \$45- \$75 per month. This additional rent burden can be a staggering, insurmountable burden for an elderly person or a struggling working family with little additional income to make larger rent payments.

Cuts Hurt Rural Areas More

In rural areas like southeast Ohio, where incomes and rents are lower than in the rest of the state, and where projects tend to be smaller, the lack of unclaimed funds in the revenue mix is even more dire. Projects would not be able to sustain higher rents, so there would be a dramatic decrease in the development of new affordable rental housing.

Recommendation

In order to cover basic costs, OHFA needs at least \$62 million a year in allocations or retained payments from Unclaimed Funds in order to have a bare bones Affordable Housing Loan Program. As a result, it is imperative that the state NOT make anymore transfers from Unclaimed Funds.

HUD Announces Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grant Awards

Ohio receives \$55.6 million to provide critical housing and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Hamilton County / Cincinnati CoC

City of Cincinnati	SPC	\$574,320
AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati	SHPR	\$85,050
Tender Mercies Inc.	SHPR	\$898,473
Center for Independent Living Options, Inc.	SHPR	\$167,189
Caracole, Inc.	SHPR	\$480,000
Justice Watch, Inc.	SHPR	\$183,621
Shelterhouse Volunteer Group, Inc.	SHPR	\$296,258
Over-the-Rhine Housing Network	SHPR	\$168,111
Hamilton County Department of Jobs & Family Services	SHPR	\$366,628
Salvation Army	SHPR	\$826,980
The First Step Home, Inc.	SHP	\$245,175
Joseph House, Inc.	SHPR	\$322,982
Franciscan Home Development, Inc.	SHPR	\$641,004
Tom Geiger Guest House, Inc.	SHPR	\$157,500
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	SHP	\$854,284
City of Cincinnati, Ohio	SPCR	\$515,208
Total:		\$6,782,783

Lucas County / Toledo CoC

Neighborhood Properties, Inc.	SHP	\$945,000
Neighborhood Properties, Inc.	SHP	\$724,500
Neighborhood Properties, Inc.	SHPR	\$221,926
FOCUS	SHPR	\$890,138
Catholic Charities Diocese of Toledo	SHPR	\$268,192
FOCUS	SH	\$299,930
Total:		\$3,349,686

Mahoning County / Youngstown CoC

YWCA Scattered-Site Permanent Housing for Families	SHP	\$442,717
Young Women Christian Association of Youngstown	SHPR	\$320,742
Young Women Christian Association of Youngstown	SHPR	\$71,334
Catholic Charities Housing Opportunities	SHPR	\$28,149
Northeast Ohio Legal Services	SHPR	\$52,793
Young Womens Christian Association of Youngstown	SHPR	\$162,735
Youngstown Area Community Action Council	SHPR	\$41,590
Potential Development Program, Inc.	SHPR	\$54,075
The Greater Youngstown Point, Inc.	SHPR	\$80,150
Total:		\$1,254,285

Cuyahoga County / Cleveland CoC

Cuyahoga County	SPC	\$1,654,200
EDEN, Inc.	SHP	\$2,147,749
EDEN, Inc.	SHP	\$233,761
Cleveland Housing Network, Incorporation	SHP	\$369,721
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$525,706
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$471,704
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$459,795
Family Transitional Housing, Inc.	SHPR	\$120,901
Family Transitional Housing, Inc.	SHPR	\$97,182
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority	SHPR	\$563,045
Lakewood Christian Service Center	SHPR	\$41,398
Joseph's Home	SHPR	\$273,056
YWCA of Greater Cleveland	SHPR	\$342,158
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$283,664
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$455,574
Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc.	SHPR	\$450,263
Cleveland Housing Network	SHPR	\$119,626

Cuyahoga County / Cleveland CoC continued

Catholic Charities Health and Human Services Women's Shelter	SHPR	\$39,032
Transitional Housing, Inc.	SHPR	\$122,528
Volunteers of America of Northeast and North Central Ohio	SHPR	\$79,155
Volunteers of America of Northeast and North Central Ohio	SHPR	\$246,967
Continue Life, Incorporated	SHPR	\$212,973
The Salvation Army	SHPR	\$270,705
Hitchcock Center for Women, Incorporation	SHPR	\$275,403
The Salvation Army	SHPR	\$537,741
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority	SHPR	\$386,373
East Side Catholic Center and Shelter, Incorporation	SHPR	\$187,749
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority	SHPR	\$187,351
Cuyahoga County	SPCR	\$505,572
Cuyahoga County	SPCR	\$1,555,824
Total:		\$13,216,876

Montgomery County / Dayton / Kettering CoC

PLACES, Incorporated	SHPR	\$1,935,214
Daybreak	SHPR	\$251,307
PLACES, Incorporated	SHP	\$600,000
Daybreak	SHPR	\$128,759
City of Dayton	SPCR	\$1,162,632
City of Dayton	SPCR	\$349,224
Total:		\$4,427,136

Stark County / Alliance / Canton / Massillon CoC

Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPC	\$554,400
P.A.L. Mission	SHP	\$200,000
Alliance for Children & Families	SHP	\$378,924
Minority Development Services of Stark County	SHP	\$192,950
Community Services of Stark County, Inc.	SHPR	\$400,000
The Salvation Army	SHP	\$215,363
Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$155,736
Total:		\$2,097,373

Summit County / Akron / Barberton CoC

Community Support Services	SHP	\$531,047
Info Line Inc.	SHP	\$479,390
H.M. Life Opportunity Services	SHPR	\$204,200
Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties	SHPR	\$329,980
Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties	SHPR	\$422,206
Access, Inc.	SHPR	\$355,270
Legacy III, Inc.	SHP	\$399,825
Total:		\$2,721,918

Franklin County / Columbus CoC

National Church Residences	SHP	\$750,276
Community Housing Network	SHPR	\$782,016
Catholic Social Services	SHPR	\$89,983
Catholic Social Services	SHP	\$33,566
Friends of the Homeless, Inc.	SHPR	\$412,499
Friends of the Homeless, Inc.	SHPR	\$369,542
Volunteers of America of Central Ohio	SHPR	\$336,531
Volunteers of America of Central Ohio	SHPR	\$370,333
Community Housing Network	SHP	\$400,000
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$410,220
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$276,288
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$87,120
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$176,160
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$28,296
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$607,260
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$113,472
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$533,412
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$419,292
Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$230,460
Total:		\$6,426,726

Ohio Balance of State CoC		
WSOS Community Action Commission	SHP	\$1,264,998
Family and Community Services of Portage County, Inc.	SHPR	\$346,177
Coleman Professional Services	SHPR	\$268,386
WSOS Community Action Commission	SHPR	\$669,845
Ironton Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization	SHPR	\$304,000
Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio	SHPR	\$393,153
Wooster Interfaith Housing Corporation	SHPR	\$790,810
Jefferson County Community Action Council, Incorporated	SHPR	\$415,296
PICCA (Pickaway County Community Action)	SHPR	\$369,435
Catholic Charities	SHPR	\$86,769
City of Springfield	SHPR	\$30,042
Project Women	SHPR	\$35,020
Project Women	SHPR	\$46,162
Ohio Department of Development	SHP	\$1,228,728
Licking Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPC	\$427,620
Humility of Mary Housing, Incorporated	SHP	\$229,871
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board	SHP	\$767,828
Columbiana Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPC	\$267,240
Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority	SPCR	\$390,300
State of Ohio	SPCR	\$183,504
	Total CoC:	\$8,515,184
	State CoC Total:	\$48,791,967

Emergency Shelter Grants Allocations:

AKRON		\$299,000
CANTON		\$129,000
CINCINNATI		\$597,000
CLEVELAND		\$1,074,000
COLUMBUS		\$302,000
CUYAHOGA COUNTY		\$115,000
DAYTON		\$295,000
FRANKLIN COUNTY		\$76,000
HAMILTON COUNTY		\$121,000
LAKEWOOD		\$90,000
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		\$86,000
OHIO STATE PROGRAM		\$2,997,000
SPRINGFIELD		\$91,000
TOLEDO		\$346,000
YOUNGSTOWN		\$196,000
	Total ESG:	\$6,814,00
	TOTAL STATE FUNDING:	\$55,605,967

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susanfrancis@cohhio.org.

Hunger, Homelessness On the Rise in Major U.S. Cities

As housing costs continued to rise faster than incomes and the national economy remained weak, requests for emergency food assistance increased an average of 19 percent over the past year. *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities 2002* also found that requests for emergency shelter assistance grew an average of 19 percent, the steepest rise in a decade.

The annual report, authored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, found that participating cities were most likely to attribute hunger in their communities to high housing costs (16 cities), low-paying jobs (15 cities), unemployment (13 cities), and the economic downturn (11 cities).

As need increased, the level of resources available to help meet that need at emergency food assistance facilities decreased in 52 percent of the cities, increased in 35 percent, and remained the same in 13 percent. Just over half the cities surveyed said they were not able to provide an adequate quantity of food to those in need. Nearly two-thirds of the cities reported they had to decrease the quantity of food provided and/or the number of times people could get food assistance. An average of 16 percent of the demand for emergency food assistance is estimated to have gone unmet in the survey cities. The report finds that nearly half of those requesting emergency food assistance were members of families with children and that 38 percent of adults requesting such assistance were employed.

Participating cities were most likely to attribute homelessness to a lack of affordable housing (21 cities), mental illness and the lack of needed services (20 cities), substance abuse and the lack of needed services (19 cities), and low-paying jobs (17 cities). The report documents significant unmet need for shelter in cities across the nation.

People remained homeless for an average of six months in the survey cities, a figure that increased from one year ago in all but four cities. Single men comprised 39 percent of the homeless population, families with children 39 percent, single women 12 percent, and unaccompanied youth two percent. Seventy-three percent of homeless families in survey cities were headed by single parents. It is estimated that substance abusers account for 32 percent of the homeless population in the survey cities and persons considered mentally ill account for 23 percent. Twenty-two percent of the homeless in survey cities are employed and ten percent were veterans.

All the cities in the survey expect that requests for both emergency food assistance and shelter assistance will increase again over the next year.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors also announced a "call to action" to address growing hunger and homelessness in our nation. Specifically, the mayors -

- Called on Congress to immediately consider and build upon President Bush's request for aid to the homeless, as part of a comprehensive effort to end homelessness within ten years;
- Called on Congress and the Administration to enact a national housing agenda, based on the recommendations mayor's submitted earlier this year, which would put tens of thousands of Americans to work;
- Called on Congress to streamline federal anti-hunger programs and provide additional outreach resources; and
- Urged all Americans to donate their time, money, and excess food to help combat hunger and homelessness.

The mayors of the 25 cities included in the survey are members of the Conference's Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness. They are Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle, Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley, Charlotte Mayor Patrick McCrory, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, Louisville Mayor David Armstrong, Miami Mayor Manny Diaz, Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim, Philadelphia Mayor John Street, Phoenix Mayor Skip Rimsza, Portland Mayor Vera Katz, Providence Mayor John Lombardi, Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly, Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer, and Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams.

The complete report can be downloaded at www.usmayors.org.

News Briefs

New York City Mayor Announces Plan for Major Increase in Housing

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced plans for the rehabilitation and creation of more than 65,000 homes and apartments, which would include new housing for people with very low-incomes, special needs populations such as youth aging out of foster care, and people experiencing homelessness. The plan would dedicate \$3 million over the next five years and includes a 25 percent increase in the production of new units compared to the previous five years. In addition to the funding increase, the plan calls for a series of policy changes to stimulate private investment in housing. For a copy of the Mayor's plan, visit www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/pdf/new-marketplace.pdf.

VA Awards Homeless Grant and Per Diem Funding to Help House Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced the awarding of \$13 million in funds to aid the development of housing and service centers for veterans experiencing homelessness. The awards will go to 53 providers throughout the country, resulting in the addition of 1,378 new beds to the existing stock of 3,600 transitional beds already funded through VA homeless grants. For more information, visit www.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=2.

Government Resources for Americans with Disabilities

- The White House has launched a new website to serve as a resource for Americans with disabilities. It is aimed to facilitate access to all disability-related government resources and contains extensive information on housing, health, employment, income support, civil rights, and more. To view the website, go to www.disabilityinfo.gov/Health.
- The Department of Health and Human Services has established a new Office on Disability (OD) within the Office of Secretary.

Census Bureau Names Most Segregated Cities

Interpreting data from its 2000 survey of households and communities, the U.S. Census Bureau has identified the top ten most segregated large metropolitan areas for African Americans. They are Milwaukee-Waukesha, Detroit, Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, St. Louis, Newark, Cincinnati, Buffalo-Niagra Falls, New York City, Chicago and Philadelphia. Furthermore, many cities are moving farther away from, not closer to, the ideal of a mixed society in which people of various races routinely intermingle in where they live, work and spend free time. Fully integrated neighborhoods would have populations of white and African American residents in rough proportion to their numbers in the overall population. The Bureau's top ten have many neighborhoods where the majority population, whether white or African American, constitutes as much as 90 percent of residents. For more information, visit http://landview.census.gov/hhes/www/resseg.html.

IRS Awards Grants to Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics

The Internal Revenue Service recently awarded matching-fund grants to 138 tax-exempt organizations and academic institutions under the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) program. The LITC provides low-cost legal assistance to taxpayers to resolve tax disputes. Also, LITCs inform and educate taxpayers for whom English is a second language regarding their tax rights and responsibilities.

The Ohio organizations that received funds are: Community Legal Aid Services, Akron; Friendship Foundation of American - Vietnamese, Inc., Cleveland; The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland; Ohio State Legal Services Association, Columbus; Legal Aid Society of Dayton; Lake Erie College, Painesville and Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo

PIPP Eligibility

PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) is an extended payment arrangement that requires regulated gas and electric companies to accept payments based on a percentage of the household income for those customers who are at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. A new booklet, "Percentage of Income Payment Plan: Questions and Answers" has been published by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Services and the Public Utility Commission of Ohio. It may be accessed at www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/ocs/heap.htm#pipp. See the eligibility chart on the next page.

Eligibility Chart of the PIPP Program, 2002-2003

<u>Size of Household</u>	<u>Yearly Gross Household Income</u>
1 person	Up to \$13,290
2 persons	Up to \$17,910
3 persons	Up to \$22,530
4 persons	Up to \$27,150

Households with more than four members add \$4,620 for each additional member.

Welfare Reports Available

The Ohio United Way has put together a list of several welfare reports. The reports include such topics as: *Food Stamp Participation Increases in August 2002; Is 2.7 Million Persons Higher Than in August 2000; TANF and WIA Integration: Early Experiences and Emerging Issues; The WIC Program: Background, Trends, and Issues; Medicaid and the Prescription Drug Benefit: Cost Containment Strategies and State Experiences; The State Tax Cuts of the 1990s, the Current Revenue Crisis, and Implications for State Services; Child Support: An Important but Often Overlooked Issue for Low-Income Clients; Minorities as Majority: Disproportionality in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice; Leavers, Stayers, and Cyclers: An Analysis of the Welfare Caseload; Options to Help Low-Income Noncustodial Parents Manage Their Child Support Debt; Mental Health and Welfare Reform: What Facilitates Employment Among Those with Depression?; and Putting Food on the Table after Welfare Reform: What Protects Families from Food Insecurity.* The links for all of these reports are available on the COHHIO web page at www.cohhio.org/resources/welfare.html.

HOPE VI Leveraging and Reporting Examined by GAO

Senator Jack Reed has requested a comprehensive review of the HOPE VI program by the General Accounting Office (GAO). In the first of a series of responses due, GAO reported on its evaluation of the financing of HOPE VI developments and its compliance with requirements to file reports with Congress about HOPE VI financing. With respect to leveraging, housing authorities plan to use an additional \$1.85 of funds other than HOPE VI revitalization grants for every \$1 of HOPE VI funds spent. While GAO notes that HUD's calculations find the leveraging of funds to be higher than GAO's calculation, GAO also determined that 79 percent of funds for HOPE VI developments are from other federal sources, such as the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Thus, though a little more than one-third of funding for HOPE VI is from HOPE VI revitalization grants, nearly four-fifths of the funding is from the federal government, rather than state or local government or private sources. According to GAO's evaluation, leveraging for community and supportive services has increased since 1997 due to incentives implemented by HUD. In FY97, 22 percent of funds for community and supportive services were leveraged, while in FY02, nearly 60 percent of those funds were leveraged. GAO also found that public housing authorities remained within the requirements of HUD's total development cost policy, though they have done so by using other funds not subject to the requirements. Finally, GAO noted that HUD has not reported to Congress on leveraging and costs despite a statutory requirement to do so annually. While acknowledging that HUD provides some information in a report sent to the House and Senate appropriations committees in June 2002, GAO notes that, contrary to HUD's assertions, its most recent budget justification and performance and accountability report do not include sufficiently detailed information about leveraging and costs. GAO recommends that HUD provide the annual reports as required by law.

HOPE VI Housing Program Yields Mixed Results

Many families have benefited from the higher quality housing that has resulted from the federal HOPE VI housing program since it began in 1993. However, the majority of original residents of the developments revitalized by the program live in other locations, and roughly half of those displaced by the program are likely to face cost burdens. These mixed results have come to light in a new series of reports by the Urban Institute, which represents the first systematic multi-city evaluations of the impact of HOPE VI on residents. Among the evaluations is a resident tracking study, which surveyed the living conditions of former residents of eight properties between two and seven years after the housing authority received a HOPE VI grant. The study found 19 percent of the original residents were living in a revitalized HOPE VI development, 29 percent were living in other public housing properties, 33 percent were renting units using housing vouchers, and 18 percent had left assisted housing completely. The study further found that 59 percent of those using housing vouchers and 52 percent of those in unsubsidized households reported having difficulties in paying rent and utilities in the previous year. The report's authors further note that due to the study's one-third non-response rate the study may actually paint a brighter picture than the reality: the residents whose whereabouts are unknown are likely to have fared the worst. Further details on the evaluations of HOPE VI is available at www.urban.org.

**Housing Ohio 2003
COHHIO's 2003 Annual Conference
March 24th – 26th**

COHHIO's 2003 Annual Conference is just around the corner. Conference brochures have been sent out. You can also download an electronic version of the brochure from the COHHIO web page at www.cohhio.org/training/2003conference.html.

Housing Ohio 2003 is sure to provide an arena to learn about innovative housing programs and successful service delivery models; exchange information and ideas with your peers; as well as get updates on federal and state legislative issues related to your work.

Who Should Attend?

Housing and homeless advocates, social service providers, shelter and transitional housing operators, clients and program participants, nonprofit housing developers, welfare advocates, community development officials, fair housing advocates, supportive housing providers, federal, state and local government personnel, mental health and substance abuse professionals and anyone else concerned with the provision of decent, safe and affordable housing and services for low-income people.

Hotel Accommodations

The Adams Mark Hotel is offering a discounted room rate of \$109 per night! Conference participants are responsible for making reservations by calling the Adams Mark at 614-228-5050 or 800-444-ADAM. Be sure to tell the hotel operator you are part of the COHHIO conference. To get the special rate, you must make your reservations by March 1. There are a limited number of rooms available, so please book your room early.

Continuing Education Units

COHHIO will apply for approximately 10.5 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) for Counselors and Social Workers as well as approximately 7.25 Continuing Legal Education (CLE's) for attorneys. The administrative fee for both CEU's and CLE's is \$5. Certificates will be mailed following the conference. Conference attendees must sign the CEU or CLE forms each day of the conference.

Scholarships

A limited number will be available to those who demonstrate a financial burden and would not otherwise be able to attend the conference. Scholarships are limited to one per organization. Submit your written request via fax (614-463-1060) or mail, to Rick Taylor at COHHIO. No phone calls please. The deadline is February 21, 2003. Requests submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Registration

(1 person per form, form can be copied, please print clearly)

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____
 County _____ Counties Served _____

_____ Please check for vegetarian lunch

To help us plan for the appropriate space, please CIRCLE the workshops you would be most interested in attending for each set.

Workshop Set A

- No Child Left Behind
- Selling the Concept...Moving from Ideas to Action
- TANF Reauthorization
- Learning from Preservation Transfer Deals
- HMIS Implementation...Now What
- Landlord - Tenant 101
- NIMBY
- Do Not Pass Go, Go Directly to Jail

Workshop Set C

- Case Managing Homeless Children in Families
- Housing and Employment
- Come on in...The Water's Fine (Predatory Lending)
- New Challenges to Affordable Housing Preservation
- An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure
- I'm Sorry...that Apartment was Just Rented
- Housing for Non-Housers
- Harm Reduction vs. Homelessness

Workshop Set B

- Funding Emergency Shelters...for Youth
- Forget the Bricks & Sticks...Paying for Services
- There's Too Much Month at the End of My Check
- Tenant Organizing 201 - Beyond Getting it Together
- A Bigger Table...Using Mainstream Resources
- When is an Accommodation Reasonable
- Economic Impact of Housing Production
- Closing the Front Door...Mental Health Treatment

Workshop Set D

- Recruit, Utilize and Retain Youth Volunteers
- Housing First...Cleveland Style
- Food Stamps & SSL...Safety Net or Empty Promises
- Regional Coalitions - Stalking the Inventory
- Serving the Hidden Homeless
- Denial of Hsg Assistance Based on Criminal History
- How Affordable is Affordable Housing
- Serving Sexual Offenders

Conference Registration: \$150 (COHHIO member) and \$200 (non-member), regardless of how many days you plan on attending the conference. Membership fee: _____ (optional)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ (COHHIO Federal Id. #31-1189029)
 Payment Amount: Check # _____ OR Purchase Order # _____

Checks can be made out to COHHIO and registrations may be sent to 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138. Credit cards are not accepted. Payment must accompany registration. No phone or fax registrations. Registrations not guaranteed after March 14. **Questions? Call 614-280-1984.**

Order Your Updated COHHIO Directory of Services NOW

COHHIO's *Directory of Services*, a listing of non-profit housing organizations and homeless service providers in Ohio, is now available. The Directory is organized by county and lists over 900 programs that serve homeless Ohioans as well as provide housing and economic development opportunities for other low-income families and individuals. The Directory includes organizations that provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, health and mental health care, shelter for youth and victims of domestic violence, fair housing counseling, housing development expertise and permanent housing.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the COHHIO Directory of Services, please complete the order form below and return with payment to COHHIO.

Please send me _____ copy/copies of the Directory of Services at \$15.00 per copy or \$35.00 for three copies (cost includes handling and postage).

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Send Directory To:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to COHHIO, and mail with this form to: 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138; (614) 280-1984. Federal Identification No.: 31-1189029

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio Membership

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Individual: _____ \$35 (Regular) _____ \$75 (Benefactor) _____ \$250 (Sustainer)
_____ \$10 (Low-Income) _____ Fee Waiver Requested

Agency (according to budget):
_____ \$35 (\$100,000 or less) _____ \$75 (\$100,001 - \$250,000)
_____ \$125 (\$250,001 - \$500,000) _____ \$200 (\$500,001 - \$1 million)
_____ \$250 (\$1 million-\$1.5 million) _____ \$300 (over \$1.5 million)

Please send your tax deductible check to COHHIO at 35 E. Gay St, Ste. 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Thank you for your support!

Resources

EVENTS

March 24-26, *Housing Ohio 2003, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Columbus*. Visit www.cohhio.org to get conference information, including a conference brochure and directions.

March 27-28, *Seeds of Growth, Sustainable Community Development: What Works, What Doesn't and Why, Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC*. For more information, call 312/322-8232.

April 28-29, *National Low Income Housing Coalition Annual Housing Policy Conference, Washington, DC*. Watch for details at www.nlich.org.

FUNDING/AWARDS

USDA Energy Grants. Will fund a wide range of energy-related facilities for rural communities with extremely high energy costs. Deadline is February 7. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecgp/index.htm.

Senior Community Service Employment Program. The Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, expects to make 10 to 20 grants. The program seeks to foster useful part-time opportunities in community service for unemployed, low-income seniors (age 55 and up). Participants would work 20 hours per week in community service agencies. For more information, visit www.doleta.gov.

The Jeannette Rankin Foundation (JRF) raises funds for and awards scholarships annually to women thirty-five years of age and older who through undergraduate or vocational education are seeking to better themselves, their families, and their communities and qualify under their income guidelines. Deadline is March 1. For more information, visit www.rankinfoundation.org.

MATERIALS

Smart Growth Tool Kit, National Neighborhood Coalition. A guide for neighborhood advocates on how to foster sustainable community revitalization effectively within a regional dynamic. The kit provides a big-picture explanation of how neighborhood development and regional growth affect one another, as well as a checklist for action. For a copy of the report, contact Leah Kalinosky at 202/408-8553.

Taking Stock: Rural People, Poverty, and Housing at the Turn of the 21st Century, Housing Assistance Council. Finds that housing affordability problems are increasing in rural areas and now affect one rural households in four. Key findings include: 1) nearly 30 percent of nonmetro households have at least one major housing problem, most often cost burden (paying more than 30 percent of income for housing); 2) non-white and Hispanic rural households are three times more likely to live in substandard housing than white rural households; 3) nearly one in five nonmetro African-American households live in substandard housing; 4) Hispanic households occupy one-quarter of all crowded housing units in nonmetro areas; and 5) 189 of the nation's 200 poorest counties are rural. To view the report, go to www.ruralhome.org/pubs/hsganalysis/ts2000.

Creating Inclusive Communities in Florida: A Guidebook for Local Elected Officials and Staff on Avoiding and Overcoming the Not in My Backyard Syndrome, Florida Housing Coalition. Explains what affordable housing is, how it is financed and developed, and who benefits from it. It emphasizes that affordable housing is not cheap or ugly housing, that it is an asset for the community, and that it provides homes for workers, the elderly and the disabled. It also explains that failure to provide affordable housing due to local opposition is likely to run afoul of the Fair Housing Act. The book is Florida-specific but could be used as a model for others. For details, contact Jaimie Ross, President, Florida Housing Coalition, at jaimieross@aol.com.

OTHER

Website - Community Environmental Health Resource Center, www.cehrc.org. Intended to serve as a resource to advocates working to protect children from environmental hazards in housing. Includes program information, home hazard assessment tools (for lead and other hazards), information on organizing and advocacy, relevant legislative and regulatory information and more.

How to Contact...

NATIONAL

National Coalition for the Homeless: www.nationalhomeless.org

National Low Income Housing Coalition: www.nlihc.org

President Bush - 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500; 202/456-1414; 202/456-2461 (fax); president@whitehouse.gov

Senators Voinovich & DeWine - United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510
Voinovich - 202/224-3353; 202/228-1382 (fax); voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov
DeWine - 202/224-2315; 202/224-6519 (fax); senator_dewine@dewine.senate.gov

Representatives - United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; 202/224-3121

STATE

Governor Taft - 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; 614/466-3555; 614/466-9354 (fax)

Ohio Senate - State House, Columbus, Ohio 43266-0604; 614/644-5466 (fax-R); 614/644-1982 (fax - D)

Ohio House of Representatives - 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; 614/644-9494 (fax)

Legislative Directories are available by contacting us: COHHIO - 35 East Gay Street, Suite 210, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138; 614/280-1984; 614/463-1060 (fax); www.cohhio.org.

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COHHIO is a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending homelessness and to promoting decent, safe, fair, affordable housing for all, with a focus on assisting low-income people and those with special needs.