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COHHIO UPDATES



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HUD, VA AND USICH OFFICIALS VOLUNTEER DURING NATION'S HOMELESS COUNT

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, Thursday, January 27, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Scott Gould, and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Director Barbara Poppe joined volunteers around the nation as they participated in a national count of homeless persons and families as part of HUD's national *Let's Make Everybody Count!* campaign.

For a single night during the last week in January, providers in virtually every community across the country collect "Point in Time" data on the number and demographics of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. A crucial component of *Opening Doors* – the federal plan to end homelessness – HUD's *Let's Make Everybody Count!* campaign is intended to document trends in homelessness and help local, state and federal partners make effective use of taxpayer resources.

Each year, we ask volunteers in nearly 4,000 cities and counties across the nation to dedicate one day during the last week of January to count how many men, women and families are confronted with homelessness on a single night," said Donovan. "Through these efforts, we will have the data needed to understand the scope and breadth of homelessness in America. And this year – for the first time – we can apply that data as part of a coordinated federal plan to end homelessness."

Secretary Donovan, Deputy Secretary Gould and Director Poppe gave brief remarks to more than 80 volunteers at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., which served as the District of Columbia's "Point in Time" count volunteer staging location. After the remarks, Donovan, Gould and Poppe served as volunteers in downtown Washington, D.C. "Secretary Shinseki and I are committed to ending homelessness amongst Veterans by 2015 and this week has been an important step toward achieving this goal," Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Gould said. "VA is proud to be partnering with HUD and USICH in this important initiative and we look forward to utilizing this data nationwide to pursue opportunities to reach out to homeless Veterans."

Data gathered from the "Point in Time" counts will be used to effectively allocate funding to HUD's programs and grantees, as well as measure the nation's progress on *Opening Doors* – the federal plan to end homelessness. In June, the Obama Administration announced the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness, titled ***Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness***. The plan puts the country on a path to end veterans and chronic homelessness by 2015; and to ending homelessness among children, family, and youth by 2020.

"We have had unprecedented collaboration across federal agencies for this year's Count to be the most comprehensive ever," said United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Barbara Poppe. "It is critically important that we have the most complete data possible for all populations in order to effectively target resources and programs."

HUD is currently directing more than \$2.9 billion in homeless funding towards those goals through the recently announced **Continuum of Care grants** which awarded \$1.41 billion to nearly 7,000 local homeless assistance programs operating in the coming year, and \$1.5 billion from the new **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) Program** made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. HPRP grants have prevented or ended homelessness for more than three quarters of a million people."

HUD's homeless assistance grants are reducing long-term or chronic homelessness in America. Based on the Department's latest homeless assessment, chronic homelessness has dropped by nearly 30 percent since 2006 due to significant investments to produce thousands of units of permanent supportive housing for those who had been living on the streets. While the total number of homeless persons in America dropped slightly between 2008 and 2009, the number of homeless families increased for the second consecutive year, almost certainly due to the ongoing effects of the recession.

Based on HUD's **2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)**, volunteers throughout the nation counted 643,000 homeless people during a given night in January 2009. In addition, HUD found that during 2009, 1.54 million people used emergency or transitional housing programs in 2009.

HUD's 2010 AHAR is expected to be released in summer 2011.



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News



Tax Time...

The Ohio Benefit Bank has released the newest edition of OBB, which is a self-serve edition. Anyone can use the free OBB self-serve edition to apply for public benefits, file your tax return, apply for FAFSA, and register to vote. One great feature is that anyone can file taxes if their income is \$60,000 or less for free. To use the self-serve edition, please go to: <https://selfserve.thebenefitbank.com/>. The Ohio Benefit Bank has almost 1,200 locations throughout Ohio that can help low- to moderate-income Ohioans file their taxes and access other supports. For more information, please see: <http://www.ohiobenefits.org/>. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has hundreds of locations across the state to help people prepare federal, state, and local taxes, please see: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=234170,00.html>



HUD has initiated a new website for its **HOME Technical Assistance** program - www.hometa.info. This HUD website provides information about training and technical assistance resources that assist HOME Participating Jurisdictions (PJ) and their partners who have received HOME funds to create affordable housing for low-income households.



The **Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANA)** is currently researching the possibility of offering back office collaborations with nonprofits to provide bookkeeping and accounting services. With the challenges of the current economy, organizations are searching for new ways to reduce expenses. Back office collaborations can save thousands in administrative costs, reduce the burden associated with day-to-day financial duties, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of your organization. They ask nonprofits to please complete a short survey about your organization's current financial system and interest in collaborating with OANA. The survey takes less than 5 minutes. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RQWYQ6X>



Upcoming Trainings



COHHIO's Mission Statement

COHHIO is a statewide advocacy group and service providers network dedicated to ending homelessness and ensuring that all Ohioans have decent, safe, fair, affordable housing, especially those with low-income and special needs.

A Novel Approach to Increasing Access to Mainstream Assistance Programs for People Experiencing Homelessness. February 23, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is hosting a webinar to present information and field questions on the importance of increasing access to mainstream benefit assistance programs for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. Executive Director Barbara Poppe will present an overview derived from *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* that calls for increased access to assistance. Members of the Ohio Benefit Bank will share lessons learned in using an online expert service to lower barriers to mainstream resources on the ground in Ohio. To register, go to: <http://collaborativeforumonline.com/webinar-registration>



February 10, 2011 Resource Development through Fundraising and Donor Development - This training will take place at Highland County Chamber of Commerce 1575 N High St. Hillsboro, 45133 This is a full-day workshop that offers an overview of individual donor development, direct mail campaigns, event planning, and developing business relationships. You will leave understanding the roles that your Board and staff play in this process and knowing how to bring in more resources for your organization. This workshop is appropriate for Executive Directors, Directors of Development, Marketing Directors, Board members or other staff persons involved in fundraising. To register for training, please visit <http://www.communitydevelopmentprofessionals.com/id2.html> and complete the form. It's that easy. If you have any questions, please contact David Dawson at (513) 858-1738.



February 22, 2011 Resource Development through Fundraising and Donor Development - This training will take place at The Biz Tech Center in Hamilton, Ohio. This is a full-day workshop that offers an overview of individual donor development, direct mail campaigns, event planning, and developing business relationships. You will leave understanding the roles that your Board and staff play in this process and knowing how to bring in more resources for your organization. This workshop is appropriate for Executive Directors, Directors of Development, Marketing Directors, Board members or other staff persons involved in fundraising. To register for training, please visit <http://www.communitydevelopmentprofessionals.com/id2.html> and complete the form. It's that easy. If you have any questions, please contact David Dawson at (513) 858-1738.



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www.cohhio.org

<http://twitter.com/COHHIO>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Coalition-On-Homelessness-and-Housing-in-Ohio/111253932244739>

On the Edge: How HUD Can Improve the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid RE-Housing Program training is being offered on February 9th at 2:00 p.m. by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. NLCHP has released a report on an in-depth analysis of the program, assessing its effectiveness and making recommendations for future HUD homelessness prevention efforts. The report can be found at: <http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/OnTheEdge.pdf> Then next Wednesday, NLCHP will host a webinar to talk about their findings. To register for the training, please go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/410243786>

HUD proposes protections for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Owners and operators of HUD-assisted and FHA-insured housing would be prohibited from discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The notice explains that a separate rule will add the same protections to HUD's Native American housing programs. Comments are due by March 25th. See Federal Register of January 24th or <http://www.regulations.gov>

Worst Case Housing Needs 2009: A Report to Congress. The report on the worst case housing needs, defined as very low-income renter households who paid more than half of their monthly income for rent, lived in severely substandard housing, or both were 7.10 million in 2009 (41% of very low-income renters), up from 5.91 million (37%) in 2007. Every racial/ethnic group experienced increases, with Hispanics having the largest increase. To view this report, go to: <http://www.huduser.org>

In the News

From Homeless to Fashion Designer
[Huffington Post](#)

Success a Tough Fight for Homeless
[Columbus Dispatch](#)

PIT Count
[Ohio.com](#)
[WHIO](#)
[Cleveland.com](#)
[Zanesville Times Recorder](#)

[Times Reporter](#)
[NewsNet5](#)
[Recordpub.com](#)

Toledo Winter Crisis
[FoxToledo.com](#)

Medina Awareness Event
[Cleveland.com](#)

Walk for the Homeless
[Daily Sentinel](#)

One Day to End Homelessness
[10tv.com](#)