



Coalition on Homelessness  
and Housing in Ohio  
**COHHIO**

**January 21, 2011**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COHHIO Lauds HUD Awards of \$66.2 million to 263 Homeless Programs in Ohio**

The news that \$66.2 million in federal dollars was headed for Ohio's homeless assistance programs came as good news to the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), the state's lead advocacy group on homelessness and affordable housing. U.S. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan yesterday awarded \$1.41 billion in funding to states to keep nearly 7,000 local homeless assistance programs operating in the coming year.

"Across Ohio, the numbers tell a story of increasing hardship for families and individuals who are being pushed outside the bounds of stability," said Bill Faith, COHHIO executive director.

Faith noted that in reports from homeless agencies across the state, demand for shelter and services is spiking. The YWCA family shelter in Columbus spent \$5,000 in overflow costs to house families in 2009; in 2010, it spent \$200,000. In the Miami Valley, the primary family shelter saw a 35 percent increase in occupancy in the first two weeks of November 2010, compared to the same period of 2009. And in Cuyahoga County in September alone, 275 men who had no previous experience with homelessness, entered the county's largest shelter.

"These federal dollars will help meet an immediate and growing need across the state," Faith said. Yesterday's awards were for renewals, and increase of almost \$14 million over last year's renewal awards. New submissions will be awarded later this year. "We appreciate the importance HUD places on these critical initiatives," Faith said.

Known as *Continuum of Care* grants, HUD's funding will serve 263 agencies (list attached) that provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons as well as services including job training, case management and child care.

*Continuum of Care* grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. They fund a variety of programs from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families. COHHIO staff led the grant submission efforts through the Ohio Department of Development among Ohio's HUD-funded rural agencies, known as the Balance of State Continuum of Care. The eight largest urban centers coordinate their own submissions.

The grants are a fundamental part of the Obama Administration's *Opening Doors* strategy, the nation's first plan to prevent and end homelessness. "Across federal agencies, we are aligning mainstream programs towards a goal to prevent and end homelessness," said Barbara Poppe, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). "While we continue to strengthen public-private partnerships in Washington and across the country to meet this goal, today's grants provide essential support to continue the progress and meet critical needs of those who experience the crisis of homelessness."

For more, visit <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/coc/>