

September 30, 2011

COHHIO UPDATES



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio
COHHIO

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*For your convenience, you
may access previous
issues of COHHIO Updates
at:
[http://www.cohhio.org/
news_events.php](http://www.cohhio.org/news_events.php)*



It's that time of year to register voters for this fall's election on November 8.

The deadline for registration is October 11.

Consider setting up a voter registration station at your agency.

- ✓ Draw attention with posters or balloons
- ✓ Have voter registration forms available
- ✓ Designate an agency representative to be the point person
- ✓ Be sure to turn in all voter registration forms cards within 10 days of completion to your county board of elections

Find everything you need at [OhioVOTES](#) or send an email to cathyjohnston@cohio.org or call at 614.280.1984, x 25.

Nonprofit VOTE will host "The ABCs of Nonpartisan Voter Registration for Nonprofits" on Thursday, September 29 at 2:00 p.m. EST. [RSVP here](#).



Home Depot Grant Opportunity for Veterans' Housing Needs. The **Home Depot Foundation** is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations, public schools and tax-exempt public agencies to receive funding for their volunteer projects that meet the housing needs of veterans. Applications are being accepted through the Home Depot Foundation <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org/how-we-help/grants.html> through November 11, Veterans Day. Projects that will be considered include repairs, refurbishments, modifications, weatherization or beautification of low-income and/or transitional veterans' housing or community facilities that serve veterans. This grant program is part of a Home Depot Foundation pledge to provide \$30 million over three years to ensure veterans have a safe place to call home.



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**HUD AWARDS NEARLY \$60 MILLION TO HELP
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES RECEIVE JOB TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today awarded nearly \$60 million to help public housing agencies across the U.S., the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to retain or hire service coordinators to work directly with families who participate in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher program. The coordinators will assist these voucher recipients to find employment resources and job training opportunities to put them on a path toward self-sufficiency.

"In today's economy, it's never been more critical to help families obtain the skills that lead to jobs," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "With HUD's help, these housing authorities will be able to assist families in finding employment, increasing their earning potential and putting them on a path to self sufficiency."

[HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program \(HCV/FSS\)](#) supports public housing agencies (PHAs) to retain or hire family self-sufficiency coordinators. These coordinators in turn link adults in the HCV program with welfare agencies, schools, businesses and other local partners to develop the skills and experience to enable them to obtain jobs that pay a living wage. The local organizations typically provide participating individuals job training, childcare, counseling, transportation, job placement and homeownership counseling.

Participants in the HCV-FSS program sign a contract that requires the head of the household will get a job and the family will no longer receive welfare assistance at the end of the five-year term. As the family's income rises, a portion of that increased income is deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account. If the family completes its FSS contract, the family receives the escrow funds that it can use for any purpose, including a down payment on a home, paying educational expenses, starting a business or paying back debts.

HUD's Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a long-standing resource for increasing economic security and self-sufficiency among participants. [HUD issued a new report](#) earlier this year that evaluated the effectiveness of the FSS Program. Conducted from 2005 to 2009, the study shows the financial benefits are substantial for participants who complete the program. This study is the second of a three-part series by HUD that evaluate the effects of the FSS program. The [first study](#) found individuals who participated in the FSS program fared better financially than those who did not enroll in the program. HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) will launch the third and final installment to complete the series this year.

Adams MHA \$40,000	Akron MHA \$184,367
Allen MHA \$39,501	Athens MHA \$41,276
Chillicothe MHA \$45,247	Cincinnati MHA \$248,250
City of Marietta, Ohio/PHA \$44,222	Clinton MHA \$50,225
Columbus MHA \$96,258	Cuyahoga MHA \$90,958
Dayton MHA \$95,252	Delaware MHA \$47,001
Erie MHA (OH028) \$61,650	Fairfield MHA \$52,645
Geauga MHA \$59,000	Jackson MHA \$40,640
Jefferson MHA \$49,999	Knox MHA \$46,244
Lake MHA \$77,987	Logan County MHA \$37,903
Lorain MHA \$49,606	Lucas MHA \$181,255
Medina MHA \$37,535	Meigs Housing Authority \$7,365
Morgan MHA \$21,341	Morrow MHA \$37,589
Parma Public Housing Agency \$41,212	Pickaway Metro Housing Authority \$23,500
Portage MHA \$38,462	Springfield MHA \$44,645
Trumbull MHA \$66,212	Tuscarawas MHA \$50,000
Vinton MHA \$38,728	Wayne MHA \$43,528
Youngstown MHA \$182,093	Zanesville MHA \$183,444

OH Total: \$2,495,140

Congratulations to all of these agencies



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**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.

In The News

- Chillicothe VA Event aims to help homeless - <http://www.chillicothegazette.com/article/20110924/NEWS01/109240303>
- Facility for homeless veterans to open in Fairfield County - <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/09/25/facility-for-homeless-veterans-to-open-in-fairfield-county.html>
- Woman's effort helping to keep homeless warm - <http://bgdailynews.com/articles/2011/09/25/news/news4.txt>
- Participants get creative in building Cardboard City - <http://www.athensnews.com/ohio/article-34910-participants-get-creative-in-building-cardboard-city.html>
- Permanent supportive housing is more than a place for homeless people to live; it's a chance to reconnect - http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/08/permanent_supportive_housing_i.html?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokuarlZKXonjHpfsXw7%2B8rT%2Frn28M3109ad%2BrmPBy90YMIWoEnZ9mMB AQZC81kzhhdCPCHdZNF%2BfpQBIS8US%2Fm
- Monarch Place project in Marion to aid Mentally Ill - <http://www.marionstar.com/article/20110919/NEWS01/109190303/New-project-aid-mentally-ill>
- Richland County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Meets - <http://www.wmf.com/newsboard/single.asp?Story=47765>

Are you a member?

Please consider championing our mission!

- Due to our advocacy on your behalf, has your organization received Ohio Housing Trust Fund monies to support your programs?
- Due to our technical assistance and capacity building, has your organization received ODOD or HUD funding to support your programs?
- Due to our housing preservation work, have you received assistance in financing a preservation deal, engaging tenants, developed strategy to maintain affordable housing?
- Due to our assistance with HMIS, have you see your data quality improve?
- Our agency does so many things that we cannot mention them all – so if we have been able to help you... please consider helping us.

Please consider becoming a COHHIO member or making a donation to support our mission. Please go to our website at http://www.cohhio.org/membership_donations.php to boost our efforts.



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This is the year to join the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing at the 13th annual Ohio Housing Conference, "Strength in Numbers - More Jobs, More Growth, More Community Impact". Be a part of this premier housing conference and celebrate the impact our common mission of providing decent affordable housing has had on our residents, communities and economy. Network with more than 1,400 industry peers as you attend over 40 industry-related sessions and workshops focused on educating and inspiring you to continue your good work. We hope you will join us and share your experiences and successes as you take away value-added insights and knowledge. For more information: <http://www.ohiohome.org/11conf/home.aspx>

STATE OF OHIO'S FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM, RESTORING STABILITY, CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) is celebrating the one-year anniversary today of its statewide foreclosure prevention program, Restoring Stability: A Save the Dream Ohio Initiative. Since the implementation of the program on September 27, 2010, the Agency has assisted more than 2,900 Ohio homeowners at risk of mortgage loan default or foreclosure. Of the 2,900 homeowners, 73 percent are currently unemployed and unable to qualify for most loan modification and foreclosure prevention programs.

To implement the program, OHFA received \$570.4 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Hardest Hit Fund (HHF). Ohio was one of 18 states plus the District of Columbia that received a portion of \$7.6 billion in federal assistance through HHF, established to provide financial assistance to families in states most impacted by the downturn of the housing market.

"OHFA was among the first to open their program statewide and has been a leader in many ways among the Hardest Hit Fund states," said OHFA Executive Director Doug Garver. "The Agency is helping about 500 borrowers each month with keeping the homes they have worked hard to obtain. I am proud of the progress the program is making and feel it is well on its way to assisting an estimated 53,000 struggling families."

OHFA designed the Restoring Stability program with Save the Dream Ohio partners to help homeowners with financial hardships such as unemployment, reduced wages or hours, death of a spouse, increased medical expenses or divorce. There are four options for homeowners experiencing a hardship or loss of income including:

- Rescue Payment Assistance - Provides a payment to a participating homeowner's mortgage servicer to help bring the homeowner current on his or her delinquent mortgage.
- Partial Mortgage Payment Assistance - Provides up to 15 months of assistance for unemployed homeowners while they search for a job or participate in job training. Press Release
- Modification Assistance with Principal Reduction - Provides an incentive payment matched by an investor to reduce the mortgage principal balance so a loan modification may be possible.
- Transitional Assistance - Provides an incentive payment to the mortgage lender and homeowner with short sale or deed-in-lieu of foreclosure to help homeowners exit their homes gracefully.

To date, 2,913 homeowners received assistance totaling \$23,362,921. Of these homeowners, 2,491 received aid through Rescue Payment Assistance, 1,898 received aid through Partial Mortgage Payment Assistance, 35 received aid through Lien Cancellation and two received aid through Transition Assistance.

Homeowners may combine programs up to the maximum household benefit amount of \$15,000. More than 1,500 homeowners have received Rescue Payment Assistance in conjunction with Partial Mortgage Payment Assistance. All payments are made through OHFA's fiscal agent, Ohio Homeownership Assistance LLC, to mortgage servicers on behalf of eligible homeowners.

For more information on the Restoring Stability program, visit the Save the Dream Ohio website at www.savethedream.ohio.gov or call the toll-free hotline at 888-404-4674.



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www.cohhio.org

<http://twitter.com/COHHIO>

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

Save the Date
Ready, SET, Go! Webinar Series
3:30 - 4:30 PM ET
Starting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011

The weekly **Ready, SET (SNAPS e-Learning Tuesdays), Go!** webinar series will provide comprehensive information for Continuums of Care (CoCs), HMIS administrators, grantees, project sponsors and other stakeholders on a variety of topics focused on community planning and capacity building. The **Ready, SET, Go!** webinars will focus on strategies to assist communities prior to publication of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by the HEARTH Act as well as with the implementation and regulation requirements once the HEARTH Act regulations are published.

Registration information will be distributed via listserv when available.

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

Data collection for HUD's AHAR begins October 1, 2011. All communities that are planning on submitting data to the AHAR should attend at least one of the following trainings.

AHAR Part 1: An Introduction to the Data Collection Process

October 4, 2011, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm EDT

Audience: CoCs and HMIS administrators new to the AHAR process or wanting refresher on the basics of the data collection process.

Topics: Overview of data collected for AHAR; how to submit data via the HDX; and key terms and dates for the AHAR process.

AHAR Part 2: Steps to a Successful Data Submission

October 11, 2011, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm EDT

Audience: New and experienced AHAR communities.

Topics: HUD guidance for the 2011 AHAR; tips for reviewing and proofing your data; and how to work with your AHAR Data Collector.

Emergency Solutions Grant: Preparing for HMIS Participation

October 18, 2011 3:30 – 4:30 PM EDT

The McKinney-Vento Act as amended by HEARTH makes Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) participation a statutory requirement for ESG recipients and sub recipients. Communities have an opportunity to begin working now to ensure the ESG funded programs are meeting HMIS participation requirements. This webinar is designed to assist Continuums of Care in understanding and implementing the steps necessary to prepare ESG recipients and sub recipients for meeting HMIS participation requirements.

The **Ready, SET, Go!** webinar series is sponsored by HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS). All webinar presentations and accompanying materials will be available on HUD's [Homelessness Resource Exchange](#) (HRE).