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

\$5 Million Awarded by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Will Help Preserve Affordable Rental Housing for an Estimated 14,000 Ohio Families

COHHIO is one of Three Grantees in Ohio Compact; Investment is Aimed at Helping Ensure the Preservation of More Than 30 Percent of the Affordable Rental Housing That is At-Risk of Being Lost.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded \$5 million to the Ohio Preservation Compact, supporting an effort to preserve affordable rental housing for an estimated 14,000 Ohio families. This funding allows the Compact to better evaluate and preserve the current viability of existing affordable rental housing throughout the state. Currently, Ohio is facing a potential loss of subsidized rental housing that will affect nearly 43,000 families statewide. Over the next 10 years, this investment will help ensure the preservation of more than 30 percent of the housing that is now at-risk.

“Creating sustainable communities through affordable housing developments is one of our goals which will be made easier to meet through the Compact and the funding provided from the MacArthur Foundation,” said Doug Garver, Executive Director of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. “By being able to track current rental properties and preserve them, we will make a difference in the lives of many Ohioans by providing affordable rental housing that meets their needs.”

The Ohio Preservation Compact is a consortium of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Ohio Capital Finance Corporation (OCFC) and its parent, the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing



(OCCH).

“As a member of the Ohio Preservation Compact, OCCH is pleased to be recognized as a leader on the forefront of preserving affordable housing in Ohio,” said Hal Keller, President, OCCH. “With the \$5 million combined grant

and low cost loans from the MacArthur Foundation, OCCH plans to leverage it into a \$25 million revolving loan fund through a unique public private partnership. This is a rare opportunity and OCCH is excited to

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COHHIO's Housing Ohio 2009

**April 20 and 21
Lobby Day April 22, 2009**

Plenary Speakers:
Sen. Sherrod Brown
Rep. Marcy Kaptur
Mark Johnston, HUD

cohhio.org/conference.php

Special thanks to our Lead Sponsor:



OCCH
OHIO CAPITAL
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FOR HOUSING

\$1.5 Billion in New Resources for Homelessness Prevention



The economic recovery package passed in mid-February included an impressive \$1.5 billion for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing activities over the next few years. These funds, which communities can expect to see in the coming months, will be distributed through HUD's Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program and go directly to cities, counties, and states using the ESG formula. Funding will not be used to support emergency shelter operations, but instead can be used for short and medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, security or utility deposits, moving cost assistance, as well as many other appropriate homelessness prevention and re-housing activities.

Ohio's statewide 2008 ESG allocation before the addition of these new homelessness prevention

resources was about **\$7 million**. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) estimates that Ohio's additional allocation for 2008 will be **\$65,653,996** – an almost 10 fold increase (www.hud.gov/recovery/homelessnesspreventionrecov.xls)

It is expected that HUD will issue guidance sometime mid-March, 2009, and that jurisdictions will need to submit action plans for distribution and utilization of the prevention funds 30 to 60 days thereafter. If you currently administer ESG funds or your Continuum of Care, are a homeless/housing advocate, or are a community-based organization serving people at risk of homelessness, you should immediately begin planning how to utilize this funding. Visit www.endhomelessness.org for more information and resources to assist in this planning.

HUD Continuum of Care Awards Announced:

Four Ohio Communities Capture \$5 million in Pilot Program Funds

Ohio communities captured nearly one quarter of available funds for HUD's new Family Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration Program, bringing an additional \$5 million to the state to serve homeless families. Of the 23 continuums of care nationwide awarded these highly competitive funds, four are in Ohio; including the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care, which received the state's largest award, and the nation's third largest award, of over \$1.9 million.

In total, Ohio communities were

awarded over \$82 million to support transitional and permanent supportive housing programs as well as emergency shelters and homelessness prevention programs. These awards, which represent an almost \$12 million increase over the previous year, come at a critical time as concern around increases in homelessness continue to mount.

For more information, visit HUD's website: <http://www.hud.gov/news/release.cfm?content=pr09-010.cfm#chart>

Rapid Re-Housing Pilot Programs – by CoC	Award Amount
Cincinnati/Hamilton County	\$1,678,310
Dayton/Kettering/Montgomery County	\$ 784,700
Columbus/Franklin County	\$ 844,634
Balance of State	\$1,999,881
TOTAL	\$5,307,525

Notes of Faith

from COHHIO's Executive Director

While HB 3, the foreclosure prevention bill, is still in the drafting stage, I wanted to speak to the need for legislative action to improve our foreclosure process. Lenders say that additional regulations will have unintended consequences. I can't think of any worse consequences than destabilized banks swamped with bad debt, a global credit freeze and homeowners and communities devastated by a run away broken foreclosure system. That's what we got from doing nothing.

The foreclosure crisis in Ohio has been building in our urban and rural areas for many years and unabated, is likely to continue. Of the 1.9 million mortgages in Ohio, 419,000 are under water and an additional 134,000 are near this level of negative equity.

Add to this growing unemployment numbers and mortgage products like Alt A's and Option ARM loans that are going to reset, and we're looking at a deepening crisis. According to Credit Suisse, monthly Option ARM recasts are expected to accelerate starting in April, 2009, from \$5 billion to a peak of about \$10 billion in January, 2010 nationwide. 13 percent of option ARMs that were issued in 2006 were delinquent by 60 days by the time they were 18 months old, Credit Suisse said.

The foreclosure crisis costs us all, not just the homeowners. Each foreclosed property strips wealth from adjacent neighbors by \$3,016, based on national median home value of \$167,000. Communities receive less in property taxes and pay more in court costs, in time spent on sheriff sales, code enforcement, and the safety and protection of vacant and abandoned properties. The estimated cost per foreclosure to the local government is \$19,227.

The holder of the mortgage, usually the investor, is also a big loser in this process. In Ohio, lenders are recovering about 35 cents on the dollar once they try to sell the home after the sheriff's sale. Known as loss severity rate, Indiana and Ohio have the worst in the nation. For subprime loans, the

loss is even greater, at only 20 cents on the dollar.

We aren't suggesting that Ohio can solve it alone. The Federal response is promising but it will take months of implementation and adjustments before we are likely to see any real impact. There are many things Ohio can do to compliment the federal approach.

The worse thing we can do is to do nothing.

HB3 includes ways to repair the foreclosure system:

Regulate mortgage servicers -

Currently, servicers lack the capacity and incentives to process reasonable work-outs or loan modifications on a meaningful scale. An approach taken in North Carolina requires servicers to have aggressive modification efforts and to report those efforts to the state, or risk violating their licensure.

Six-month moratorium -

A moratorium would provide a time out to allow homeowners and lenders to take advantage of new federal programs and give our state the opportunity to implement changes to our foreclosure process.

Allow courts to work out "equitable remedy" loan modifications - Since simply enforcing the contract creates a lose/lose scenario for all involved, we should make it explicit that Common Pleas Court judges have the authority to craft more fair remedies.

Increased foreclosure filing fee -

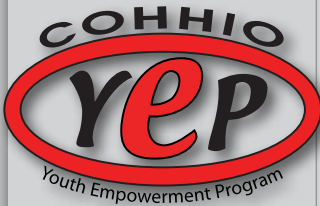
This is a great idea. Charged to the lender/servicer at the time of the foreclosure filing, 40 percent of the fee would be deposited in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, and an additional 40 percent back to the communities in redevelopment, financial education and credit and foreclosure counseling.

Together we can repair this broken process; turn losing into winning, and recover the dreams of thousands of Ohio families. Contact Cathy Johnston at COHHIO to join our efforts.



Bill Faith
Executive Director

Bill Faith



Ebony Hollamon



YEP Hosts Canton Leadership Training for Foster Care Youth

By Ebony Hollamon-YEP VISTA member

The Youth Empowerment Program went to Canton to host a leadership training on Friday February 20th. We met with fifteen youth from all around Canton ranging in age from 15-24. The majority of the youth came to us through the foster care system. They walked in the door reluctant to learn about leadership, but they quickly became excited about the discussions and future events.

One activity required us to break into groups and one young person, who had not been in foster care, was in a group of current foster youth. The group decided that they would take on the planning issue of foster care. This youth stated, "I am not in foster but I would take on this issue because I see that it is an issue for

everyone else." This statement made me feel that change is beginning to take place in the world. Very seldom do we see someone advocating for a change that is not in their own arena.

We trained the youth for about two days. We watched "Remember the Titans," a movie that many of the youth watched for the first time. The movie illustrates different leadership styles, and focuses on young people who are leaders in their community.

When the leadership training ended, the youth identified what they had learned over the few days that we had been together. They all were excited to do more in the near future!

Direct Energy Youth Leadership Awards

For the fourth year, the Youth Empowerment Program has partnered with Direct Energy to offer leadership awards to recognize youth in Ohio who have experienced homelessness/housing crisis and are trying to better their situations. Four awards will be presented to the winners at the COHHIO conference April 20th and 21st. All transportation, food and lodging will be arranged for and covered for winners.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any youth or young adult, in or out of school (ages 11 to 22) in Ohio who has experienced homelessness or housing crisis, including youth who have lived in shelters, doubled up, have been

independently homeless, or who have lived in other types of transitional or temporary situations, including foster care, juvenile justice, or the mental health system.

The leader award can be used for expenses associated with any leader opportunity as identified by the applicant. This may include, but is not limited to: Class trips, summer camp, sports, music, art or dance programs and supplies, college fees, GED classes, tutoring, school tuition, extracurricular activities, graduation fees, college visits, test fees and prep courses, summer classes, or anything that will contribute to the personal and leadership development of the youth.

All award applications are due to the COHHIO office by March 17th by fax (614-463-1060), e-mail (nickbates@cohhio.org) or mailed to 175 S. Third St Suite 250 Columbus, OH 43215.

Best of luck to all who apply!



Last year's four Direct Energy Youth Leadership Award winners. From left: Markus, Lavon, Scott (YEP Member from Canton), Gabrielle, and Stephanie.



What We Do

Daybreak was established in 1975 in Dayton, Ohio as an emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth.

Today, Daybreak operates the Miami Valley's only 24-hour crisis hot line and emergency youth shelter and has grown to include outreach, prevention, transitional housing, life-skills education, and other follow-up services for runaway, throwaway, and homeless youth. Daybreak is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Vision

A safe home for every child.

Our Mission

To eliminate youth homelessness in the Miami Valley through comprehensive and results-oriented programs that provide safety and stability for runaway, troubled and homeless youth ages 10 to 21.

Annual Service Statistics

Street Outreach: 200 youth ages 10-21
Emergency Shelter: 350 youth ages 10-18
Housing: 75 youth ages 17-21

Who We Serve

The young people and families in the Miami Valley who utilize Daybreak's services are all different. They come from urban, suburban, and rural areas. They represent different ethnic and racial groups. They come from poor, middle class, and wealthy families. They are boys and girls and range in age from 10 to 21. Despite these differences, the youth we serve do have a number of things in common.

80% report problems with parents
57% report problems in school
46% report emotional abuse and/or neglect
39% report physical abuse/assault
25% report being out of school

See www.daybreakdayton.org for more info.

A note from Linda Kramer, 'Daybreak' CEO: "Recently, photos and stories of Daybreak youth has been uploaded on the national "Do 1 Thing" website, and we think it's really pretty awesome. Needless to say, we are pretty excited and proud so I thought I'd pass it on to COHHIO since we wouldn't be able to do what we're doing without you."

He will be known as "Agent Thunder."

Why? Is it a street name?

Nah. This just seems like the perfect opportunity to use it.

Agent Thunder has been homeless since February 2008. He is 18 now, which means that he went out onto the street when he was 17 years old and still in high school. Which means that he didn't finish high school.

To make short work of a long story, Agent Thunder, found himself on the street, looking for a place to stay.

He moved from friend to friend, couch to couch. He spent one night at a shelter for homeless adults. The place was creepy, full of drug addicts and people who didn't have any problem walking around without their pants. The odor was atrocious and he had to lie on a mat on the floor less than two feet from people on either side of him.

I was afraid.

Afraid? Of being hurt?

No. Afraid of being like them. Of being in the same situation they were in.

See the full entry for Anthony (a.k.a. Agent Thunder) at www.do1thing.org/blog/



Agent Thunder hangs his poetry and art on the walls of his small room at the Daybreak shelter. Photograph by Larry C. Price.

Contact COHHIO's Suzanne Gravette Acker to put your organization in the spotlight!
(suzannegacker@cohhio.org)



AG, Foreclosure Prevention Group Requesting More Transparency from OTC/OCC on Loan Data

In a letter sent recently to the federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and federal Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a group of state attorneys general and state banking regulators have asked both OCC and OTS to clarify reporting of statistics related to loan modification programs.

The AGs and bank regulators are part of the State Foreclosure Prevention Working Group, formed in 2007 as a committee of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the nation's leading advocate for the state banking system. (See more at www.csbs.org).

The group suggested in its letter that the problem is not modifications, but the quality of the modifications. "The data suggests that national banks and federal thrifts are relying on traditional loss mitigation techniques common for

prime loans in appreciating markets, rather than applying the techniques and lessons learned by subprime servicing specialists on the need to more aggressively adjust payments and principal balances," reads the letter.

The re-default rate (55% of loan modifications made by national banks and federal thrifts were re-defaulting within six months) reported by the OCC and OTS is especially troubling to the states because they regulate servicing of the vast majority of not only prime loans, but also the more risky Alt-A and Option-ARM loans.

The letter also indicated the group's willingness to work cooperatively with federal officials to develop a comprehensive report on the efforts of mortgage servicers to prevent foreclosures.

Mortgage Lending Study Indicates Disproportionate Rate of Loan Denials for African Americans, Hispanics

The Housing Center (see www.thehousingcenter.org), a website maintained by the Cleveland-based "Housing Research & Advocacy Center", reports that after analyzing 2007 home mortgage lending data, unfair lending practices continue to occur in Ohio when the borrower is African American or Hispanic. This report, entitled "Persisting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending", was preceded by two similar publications that gathered data from 2005 and 2006.

Statewide figures for 2007 show that upper income African Americans were denied home purchase loans 32.9% of the time, while refinance loan denials were at 54.4%. Low income white home buyers experienced denials of 27.8% and 53.4%,

respectively. 34% of home purchase loans for African American buyers were considered 'high cost', compared to 20.2% for Hispanics, 12.7% for whites and 9.2% for Asians.

According to 'Housing Center' Executive Director Jeffrey D. Dillman, "These racial and ethnic disparities in mortgage lending are extremely troubling and provide strong evidence of bias in the mortgage industry in Ohio. Although lending overall has decreased over the past three years, disparities persist. This evidence raises questions about whether all groups have fair access to mortgage lending. It is up to the lending community and governments at all levels to make a strong stand against housing discrimination."



Housing Ohio
2009
April 20 - 22
www.cohhio.org

Rural Advisory Council (RAC)

Through a generous grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, COHHIO was able to assemble the Rural Advisory Council in January, 2008 and provide rural-specific trainings through our Rural Convenings. The RAC advises COHHIO on state and federal policy issues; on systems change needs; on plans for rural trainings; and with capacity building activities in rural communities that enable them to apply for and receive funding for homelessness and affordable housing projects.

Over the past year, the RAC has met quarterly to discuss homelessness prevention and programming, McKinney-Vento Reauthorization, rural training opportunities, emerging practices, state and federal policy issues, systems coordination, and much more.

Additional goals for this next year include; improving networking, sharing and best practices, highlighting new information on the COHHIO website,

encouraging the development of Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness, and advocating for funding for rural programs.

Members of the RAC include: Sondra Anderson – VOA of Northwest Ohio; Bernice Brett – Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority – Project Total; Randy Daniel – Home is the Foundation; Tony Danzo – Municipal Services Corporation; Ruthanne Donalson – Society for Equal Access, Independent Living Center; Mary Jo Frank – The Woodland Centers; Angie Franklin – Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission; Mary Gillette – Veterans Administration; Debbie Groves – Warren Metropolitan Housing Authority – Transitions Program; Martin Hammar – Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services; Becky Hammond – Pickaway County Community Action Organization; Jim Wilson – Delmor Dwellings; and Fred Zawilinski – Portage Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Recovery Package: What's in it for Housing?

From the National Low Income Housing Coalition

Visit www.nlihc.org for details

- **\$1.5 billion for homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.** (see related article on page 2).
- **\$4 billion for the Public Housing Capital Fund.**
- **\$2.25 billion for Project-based Housing.** Of this amount, \$2 billion is for full-year renewals of Project-based Section 8 rental assistance contracts.
- **\$2 billion to fund the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.** These funds can be used to redevelop foreclosed and abandoned homes.
- **Funds and Fixes for Low Income Housing Tax Credits.** Provides \$2.25 billion for capital investments in low income housing tax credit projects.
- **Other HUD provisions in the bill include:** \$1 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program. \$100 million for HUD's lead hazard control and healthy homes program. \$510 million in Native American Housing Block Grants. \$15 million for HUD's Inspector General to ensure that the bill's funds are used in an effective and efficient manner. The bill raises the FHA Loan limits for calendar year 2009 at the 2008 level.
- **Rural Housing Programs.** The bill provides \$200 million in funding to support \$1 billion in section 502 direct rural homeownership loans and \$10.4 billion for RHS' section 502 guaranteed homeownership loans.
- **Homeownership Tax Credit.** The conference agreement would amend the current \$7,500 first-time homebuyer tax credit to \$8,000.
- **McKinney Vento-Homeless Education.** \$70,000,000 nationally allocated to provide services to homeless students in local school districts. Ohio will receive \$1,384,000.
- **Other Programs.** The Emergency Food and Shelter Program within the Federal Emergency Management Agency receives \$100 million in the conference agreement; and the Census Bureau will receive \$1 billion. The bill provides \$100 million for Community Development Financial Institutions and \$3 billion in New Markets Tax Credits.



New HUD Secretary Speaks on Housing Issues

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan spoke recently at an NYU conference, “A Crisis Is a Terrible Thing to Waste: Transforming America’s Housing Policy.” While spelling out multiple goals that HUD and the Administration hope to achieve, he was also candid about some of the agency’s shortcomings. He said HUD has long had an “inability to accurately report what we are spending, how we are spending it.” Donovan said he hopes HUD can overcome doubts about the ability of the federal government to “make a difference” in housing.

His overview of response to the foreclosure crisis included four key requirements: Acceleration of loan modifications; institution of broad, industry-wide standards for loan

modifications; targeted bankruptcy reform that would drastically lower the number of homeowners who would ever end up in bankruptcy; and helping families and communities deal with the reality of foreclosures that cannot be avoided.

Finally, he laid out five areas in which he hopes the Administration can change the direction of housing policy: 1) Revamp our mortgage system; 2) Develop solutions for the lack of affordable rental-housing for low-income Americans; 3) Use of HUD and our housing policy as a force for broader economic sustainability; 4) Renew efforts concerning fair housing; and 5) Allow HUD to become a leader on research and evaluation. For more visit <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/author/sewell-chan/>

Obama Proposes Capitalization of National Housing Trust Fund

Significant funding for the creation of new affordable housing was proposed by President Obama Thursday in his new 2010 budget submission. Obama’s budget asks Congress to initially fund the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) - which was originally to be financed by now cash-strapped Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac - with \$1 billion in the first year. Advocates had pressed for funds for the National Housing Trust Fund to be included in the stimulus bill, to

no avail. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan had promised that Obama’s first budget proposal would include NHTF funding at a “significant level.” Donovan told a conference at New York University Feb. 13 that Obama would “keep his pledge” to fund the NHTF because, he said, HUD must address the shortage of rental housing for extremely low-income households and the “rising tide” of family homelessness.

SSI/SSDI Ohio Project Information Session: How The CoC/BoS Communities Will Be Awarded Funding for an SSI/SSDI Specialist

March 16, 2009 - 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

This session is intended for CoC leaders and organizations participating in the CoC/BoS counties listed at left. An overview of the SSI/SSDI Ohio Project will be presented along with how to apply to be apart of this new and exciting pilot project. We will discuss the benefits of having a dedicated staff person to focus on helping those that are homeless and/or suffering from mental illness to apply for SSI/SSDI and many more benefits. The goal of the project and the expectations for the organizations that are chosen to be apart of the project will also be discussed.

If you would like to participate in this webinar please email your contact information and county name to ravenbias@cohhio.org to receive access information.

Lucas
Mahoning
Hancock
Franklin
Cuyahoga
Athens
Summit
Hamilton
Stark
Montgomery

COHHIO Welcomes John O'Connor as *Breaking Ground* Volunteer Contributing Writer

John has been employed as a computer programmer/analyst for over 30 years.

John has some history with the newspaper business based on his dad's experience for two Indianapolis newspapers, The Times and the Star/News. Over the last few years, John has been drawn to bulletins and newsletters as ways to express his love of creating, perfecting and distributing the printed

message. He joined COHHIO as a volunteer to help write monthly editions of *Breaking Ground*. John says he enjoys the variety of articles he's been asked to 'massage', and especially likes the chance to dig a little deeper via the multitude of info found on the internet.

COHHIO says we don't know what we'd do without him!



Lunch and Learn Series

Strategies of Helping Homeless Persons Access Mainstream Resources

March 19, 2009

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- To watch the training, please register your seat now at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/995038039>
- To listen to training, please call 1-866-264-5089 on March 19, 2009 by 11:00 a.m. and enter conference code 9794328

The third session in this series is **Strategies of Helping Homeless Persons Access Mainstream Resources**. This session will discuss

strategies of linking persons to resources outside of the homeless system to gain self-sufficiency and benefits.

Transitioning People from Transitional to Permanent Housing

April 16, 2009

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- To watch the training, please register your seat now at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/393750704>
- To listen to training, please call 1-866-264-5089 on April 16, 2009 by 11:00 a.m. and enter conference code 9794328

The fourth session in this series is **Transitioning People from Transitional to Permanent Housing**. This

session will discuss strategies of aiding households to have a successful outcome of moving into permanent housing.

If you or your staff would like to participate in this Lunch and Learn Series on Case Management, please contact Jonda at jondaclemings@cohhio.org to be added to the listserv.

OhioVOTES and The Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network
Invite You to Participate in a National Webinar

"Getting Ready for the 2010 Census"

Wednesday, April 1st 2:00 PM

The US Census = Power and money for Nonprofits and the Communities We Serve.

This session will feature Terri Ann Lowenthal, Director of the Census Project. Terri served on the Census Transition Team for President Obama and staffed the House Subcommittee on Census and Population for the 1990 and 2000 Census.

To join the Nonprofits Count! Campaign 2010, visit www.nonprofitscount.org



www.ohvotes.org





JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Bank of America – and California – call Temporary Halt to Foreclosures

Three mega-banks and one state will halt home foreclosures while the Obama administration works through plans to boost the housing market. Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMC Bank, says his bank's new foreclosures on owner-occupied home loans would be halted through March 6, 2009. Citigroup declared a similar foreclosure stoppage, good until March 12 or until a federal loan modification program is defined, whichever comes first. A spending plan of \$50 billion would establish national standards for modifications and potentially cut monthly payments for homeowners on the verge of

foreclosure.

Bank of America, which acquired Countrywide in July 2008, recently announced it would begin a voluntary moratorium to give time for mortgage holders to find out if they could benefit from Obama's announced Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed a bill in late February imposing a 90-day moratorium in California. The bill exempts lenders who have a modification program in place meeting standards set forth in the bill, including reduction of payments to 38% of a borrower's income.

\$5 MILLION AWARDED... Continued from page 1

develop a sustainable funding source for preservation transactions for the years to come."

The MacArthur Foundation awarded funding in amounts between \$1 million and \$5 million to 12 states and cities. The Compact was one of only two recipients awarded the full \$5 million, which will be used to develop and implement a statewide affordable rental housing database.

"The Ohio Preservation Compact is a comprehensive and promising effort to help address the enduring demand for affordable rental housing, which has only been exacerbated by the many foreclosures across the state," said MacArthur President Jonathan Fanton.

"The John T. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has been a leader in bringing together differing interests around collaborative efforts to preserve affordable housing," said Bill Faith, Executive Director, COHHIO. "The MacArthur Foundation recognizes Ohio's need for affordable housing and our community's pioneering efforts to initiate and collaborate around solutions to house all Ohioans in safe and decent housing. COHHIO hopes to bring local communities and tenants of affordable housing into the decision making process about housing preservation. The partnership with OHFA and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing will bring public sector recognition and

private sector resources into a working relationship that will benefit all Ohioans with safe, decent and affordable housing options."

A total of 12 states and cities are launching innovative projects to preserve more than 70,000 affordable rental homes, with \$32.5 million in new support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that was announced today. MacArthur's investment – \$9.5 million in grants and an additional \$23 million in low-interest loans – will help all levels of government coordinate their efforts and target places most in need of intervention, track the state of rental housing, preserve affordable homes in communities with access to good schools, transit and other amenities and leverage more than \$147 million in other funding. State and local governments in 40 states competed for MacArthur's support, indicating broad, national interest in preserving affordable rental housing.

MacArthur's support for these projects is a part of the Foundation's Window of Opportunity initiative, a \$150 million, 10-year effort to preserve affordable rental homes across the nation. By investing in public sector efforts such as these, the Foundation hopes to help create a wave of policy reform in cities and states that will make it possible to double the rate of preservation in a decade to one million units.

To learn more about the Ohio Preservation Compact's plan for the funding, please visit www.macfound.org/housing/ohio.

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CLRC ‘Land Bank’ Legislation Signed into Law

Governor Strickland recently signed into law SB 353, giving Cuyahoga County the authority to create a County Land Reutilization Corporation (CLRC). The bill authorizes creation of a nonprofit entity (CLRC) to promote and develop the reclamation and reutilization of vacant, abandoned and foreclosed property. Eligible counties are restricted

to those with a population of 1.2 million or more. Jim Rokakis, Cuyahoga County Treasurer, believes the CLRC could net approximately \$8 million to \$9 million annually. The program is based on one that has been successful in Genesee County, Michigan, which reportedly helped land values improve by an estimated \$112 million.

New Foreclosure Data Mapping Site Launched

The Center for Housing Policy, KnowledgePlex, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Urban Institute have joined forces to launch Foreclosure-Response.org – a new Web resource that provides government officials, housing practitioners and advocates with up-to-date information on a broad range of state and local policy solutions related to foreclosure prevention

and neighborhood stabilization. The Web site includes a comprehensive policy guide of strategies for preventing and responding to foreclosures, as well as access to interactive online discussions and tools that allow users to create customized data reports and maps to identify areas in which to target resources and efforts. Visit Foreclosure-Response.org for more.

Highlights of the President’s HUD budget proposal:

- Provides \$1 billion to capitalize and launch the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that will develop, rehabilitate, and preserve affordable housing targeted to very-low income households. The Fund will help to prevent homelessness and strengthen families.
- Provides full funding for the Community Development Block Grant program at \$4.5 billion. In addition, the Budget reforms the program’s formula to better target economically distressed communities. The program will also stimulate innovations in metropolitan sustainability, university partnerships, and rural housing and economic development.
- Increases funding for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program, which likewise makes housing affordable to very low-income households. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will also introduce legislative reforms to address the program’s costly inefficiencies.
- Enables the Department to preserve approximately 1.3 million affordable rental units through increased funding for the Department’s assisted multifamily properties.
- Combats mortgage fraud and predatory loans. The Budget funds enhanced enforcement of fair housing, mortgage disclosure, and settlement requirements.
- Creates a new Energy Innovation Fund to catalyze private sector investment in the energy efficiency of the Nation’s housing stock.
- Creates a new Choice Neighborhoods Initiative to make a range of transformative investments in high-poverty neighborhoods where public and assisted housing is concentrated

Fifteen Things Each of Us Can Do to End Homelessness

1. Always at the top of the list: Give generously to COHHIO by visiting www.cohhio.org
2. Plan a Project Homeless Connect in your community that can fuse political and civic will in a one-day, one-stop array of resources to provide the hospitality and the support to create a trajectory out of homelessness.
3. Improve the tools and knowledge necessary to increase your community's capacity to end homelessness on a local level. Contact Erica Mulryan at ericamulryan@cohhio.org to request technical assistance and training about programs and models of care to end homelessness.
4. Develop a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness as a community strategy focused on ending homelessness.
5. Utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to assess local outcomes end homelessness. Contact Paula Jenkins at paulajenkins@cohhio.org to further your use of HMIS to establish data quality, analysis of programs and utilize outcomes to better address the local needs.
6. Attend our annual conference, Housing Ohio 2009, featuring U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur, and HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mark Johnston.
7. Keep the issue of homelessness and affordable housing in the press. Send articles to your local newspaper. Encourage your newspaper to print articles and press releases written by our Communications & Development Director, contact Suzanne Gravette Acker at suzannegacker@cohhio.org.
8. Your time is priceless, volunteer to help homeless register to vote. Distribute Get Out The Vote (GOTV) materials. Drive homeless persons to poll sites to vote. For more information on how to voter empowerment and civic engagement, contact Jocelyn Travis at jocelyntravis@cohhio.org.
9. Clean out your closet and give your clothing to a local clothes closet.
10. Utilize the Ohio Benefit Bank at www.obb.ohio.gov to connect low- and moderate-income Ohioans access benefits. Contact Raven Bias at ravenbias@cohhio.org regarding the SSI Ohio Project to add a SSI/SSDI module to the Ohio Benefit Bank.
11. Support homeless youth to become leaders in their schools and communities. Contact Nick Bates at nickbates@cohhio.org about how to empower youth.
12. Invite a homeless service provider to your workplace, community group, or place of worship to talk about what can be done to end homelessness.
13. Support our advocacy efforts by becoming a member of COHHIO. Please click the Membership/Donations tab on our website at www.cohhio.org.
14. Support COHHIO's missions of strengthening communities by increasing civic participation, empowering youth's self esteem and leadership skills, raising tenant's knowledge of their rights, educating homeless and affordable housing providers, and building support of policy advocacy by becoming a COHHIO member or donating to our agency. Go to our website at www.cohhio.org/membership_donations.php to pledge your support.
15. Thank the behind the scene staff that help program staff to end homelessness. We couldn't do our work on policy advocacy, education, technical assistance, youth, voter, and tenant empowerment, etc. without our Ande Ucubagabriel and Tom Rogers.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cohhio.org

www.cohhioyep.org

www.OHvotes.org

**COALITION ON
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