

[CSB ANNOUNCES FUNDING PLAN]

With slightly less funding available for FY10, CSB has developed an overall spending plan that considers Partner Agency input and CSB trustee guidance. In order to achieve a balanced budget and avoid cuts to Partner Agency programs, CSB immediately began cutting internal costs (over \$150,000 this fiscal year).

To this end, we are pleased to announce that the staff of CSB is recommending continued funding for current Partner Agencies to our Board of Trustees per the attached funding summary. CSB will award funds with the goal of maintaining a community system of services, shelter and housing. Progress will continue on the new strategies contained in the Rebuilding Lives plan and endorsed by the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative. Funding will continue to be linked to results that demonstrate effectiveness and efficiency.

Application materials for the CSB Gateway – a new, simpler process to establish a partnership agreement – were released on February 6, and an informational meeting was held on February 13. The Program Outcomes Plan will be sent to individual agencies on February 17. Completed applications are due to CSB no later than 5:00 pm on March 13. One-on-one meetings with each agency have been scheduled for March and April. The CSB Board of Trustees will approve funding on May 26.



**The same good stuff,
only better.**

We're proud to announce the debut of our new website, which went live February 13. Check it out at www.csb.org.

[2009 SNAPSHOT REPORT RELEASED]

CSB is releasing the fourth annual Snapshot Report, a comprehensive report on the Columbus and Franklin County emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing system. An advance copy of the report is attached. It will be shared with the media and posted at www.csb.org on February 20.

The report focuses on services for families with children and single adults as they move through moments of homelessness and into stable and affordable housing. Demographic data on clients served by the emergency shelter systems and permanent supportive housing for the Fiscal Year 2008 is provided. The report summarizes longer-term data trends for 1995 to present.

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

2009 Funding

In these strained economic times, the **City of Columbus** is awarding CSB funding for calendar year 2009 at a level of \$11,000 less than 2008 funding via the CDBG contract with essentially flat awards for the remaining contracts. This was accomplished in part by awarding partial year contracts to last through 12/31/09, deferring further cuts until 2010. Considering the extreme budget shortfall within the City, homeless programs fared well.

Franklin County has awarded CSB a contract for up to \$3 million based on actual receipts from the real estate transfer fee. It is expected that, much like this past year, the actual collections will leave a significant gap to reach to \$3 million. Furthermore, the 'hold harmless' level of \$3.25 million is needed to continue current levels of service. Based on County staff direction, the contract for \$3 million has been signed with the expressed intent that the Commissioners will later provide additional funds to make up any gap from actual collections as well as an additional \$250,000 to maintain current funding levels.

The current **United Way of Central Ohio** campaign is projecting at 4-5% below goal. If the goal is met, CSB would anticipate flat funding for the period of 7/1/09 – 12/31/09, with a cut expected if the campaign falls short. Funding beginning 1/1/2010 under the UWCO's new funding mechanism has not been determined. UWCO invitations to submit full applications for funding have been pushed back from 3/15/09 to 5/15/09. While a higher percentage is expected to be awarded to the funding categories within which CSB programs fall, the impact on our funding is unclear.

The Columbus Foundation Match Event

The Columbus Foundation is working to highlight and enhance our community's capacity to meet increasing demands for food and shelter. In response to this immediate need, the Foundation has organized a Critical Need Alert, raising \$400,000 in matching funds to promote community support. This Alert, called the Safety Net Fund, is a match event that will benefit 20 non-profit organizations, including CSB. The event began on February 5 for Columbus Foundation donors, and will also be open to public donors on February 26. The Safety Net Fund is benefiting CSB and eight of our twelve partnering agencies, including Gladden Community House, Lutheran Social Services, The Salvation Army, The Homeless Families Foundation, Maryhaven, Inc., Southeast, Inc., Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio, and the YWCA Columbus (Family Center).

This match has the potential to have a great impact on the work of our community. Should you wish to participate in helping CSB secure additional funds, please visit www.columbusfoundation.org and click on the Critical Need Alert banner for more information about this important giving opportunity. Open to Foundation donors (February 5), and public donors (February 26), visit PowerPhilanthropy to make your contribution.

2009 Stimulus Bill

Congress just passed the Economic Recovery Act for aid with homelessness prevention, food assistance, education, disability payments, unemployment benefits, earned income credit and assistance for persons fleeing domestic violence.

The bill provides \$1.5 billion through HUD's Emergency Shelter Grant program for the provision of short-term or medium-term rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services including housing search, mediation or outreach to property owners, credit repair, security or utility deposits, utility payments, rental assistance for a final month at a location, moving cost assistance, case management or other appropriate activities for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing of persons who have become homeless. Both the House and Senate versions of the bill contained this item from the beginning. These funds will be allocated by formula to local and state government.

CSB has been involved in discussions at the federal, state and local levels to understand how to best use these funds.

Drawbacks of Stimulus Bill

CSB recently signed on to support an open letter to Congress and the Administration on the drawbacks of the Economic Recovery Bill. Along with a number of other organizations, CSB's aim is to call attention to the true meaning of housing, assured safety for our nation's lowest income families and individuals. Although the current bill would do a great deal to promote the market, it is greatly skewed towards those of middle and upper income levels, leaving out those most in need, individuals with the lowest incomes. All of the signed organizations urged Congress to maintain the bill's funding for low income housing programs and increase this funding to at least \$35 billion. In such rough economic times, the need for a balanced recovery plan that addresses affordable housing to all is more important than ever. Unfortunately, the call for balance was not heeded.

[CONTINUUM OF CARE]

Point in Time Count

On January 27, more than 100 individuals from local social service organizations and churches participated in the 5th annual "Point-In-Time" count, checking Columbus freeway overpasses, ravines and railroad right of ways for adults and children needing housing assistance. The count is conducted every year to document the number of local homeless persons and qualify individuals for appropriate government funding levels as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Volunteers also surveyed persons receiving meals at several breakfast and lunch programs throughout the city. A final count for 2009 is expected this Spring.



Team leaders and volunteers gather before heading outside for the Point in Time Count.

Working toward Efficiency

In an effort to streamline and create more efficiency in its processes, CSB has developed a proposal for the Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee to consider at its next meeting scheduled for March 17. The proposed revisions will allow the CoC Steering Committee to more effectively continue its work to annually prioritize \$8-9 million in funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for local homeless housing projects. In addition, the CoC Steering Committee certifies community programs applying for funding through the annual Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) application process. Preliminary discussion of the proposal with key stakeholders has resulted in positive feedback so far.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative held a Committee of the Whole meeting on January 22 to hear presentations on convener plans for the *Increase Supportive Housing Units* and *Re-entry Housing Advocacy* strategies that emerged as part of the RLUS process. CSB and the Corporation for Supportive Housing were identified as the respective conveners of each strategy. Both proposals were unanimously recommended for consideration and adoption by the full RLFC at its next meeting on February 19.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Average occupancy rates for permanent supportive housing projects were at or above 95% for 15 of 17 projects. There are currently 835 Rebuilding Lives units available at these projects. The NCR Commons at Buckingham project expects to break ground and begin construction in April/May 2009. The 100-unit downtown project will provide an additional 50 units for Rebuilding Lives eligible individuals.

USHS and Southpoint Place Pilot

The Unified Supportive Housing System continues the planning process for the 2nd USHS pilot. The Move Up pilot will assist clients who are able and willing to move on from permanent supportive housing to housing with less intensive services. The Design Workgroup will meet twice in February. This workgroup is composed of representatives from supportive housing projects, behavioral and mental health organizations and ADAMH, CMHA and CSB. In the first meeting workgroup members will review national best practices research presented by the Center for Urban and Community Services. At the end of February, the workgroup will meet with The Strategy Team, Ltd. to further develop a logic model for the Move Up pilot.

Families and single adults continue to move into the Southpoint Place Apartments and all units should be completely occupied soon. Homeless units are currently at 70% occupancy and Southpoint Place continues to work with other clients to fill the remaining units.

[A 3-City Tour of Supportive Housing]

The Ohio Supportive Housing for the Homeless Alliance and COHHIO will sponsor a 3-city tour of permanent supportive housing. This is targeted to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to provide an opportunity to learn about local community plans for supportive housing in Cleveland, Dayton and Columbus – and experience firsthand our state-of-the-art facilities and services.

OSHHA was recently formed to create and implement a public policy advocacy agenda that supports the development of permanent supportive housing units across Ohio as a solution for long-term homelessness. OSHHA's membership includes PSH providers for homeless people: including developers, managers, and service providers; local community leaders responsible for implementation of community plans to end homelessness; and advocates for PSH as a long-term solution for homelessness. COHHIO is a member and close partner in developing resources to fund this work.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Adult System

The Winter Overflow “hypothermia days” trigger of temperatures below 25 degrees and/or extremely harsh weather was activated for an extended period of time during the first week of February. Shelters experienced additional demand, but did not turn anyone away and were able to provide shelter to all persons seeking relief from the harsh weather. During this period, as many as 758 men and women were sheltered.

Family System

With the YWCA Family Center managing the front door of the family shelter system, there have been zero nights of hotel use for homeless families since November 2008. The Family System continues to work collaboratively to support families in achieving successful housing outcomes. The Family System has been working to strengthen key partnerships within the system as well as to reach out to external partners to support the needs of the families served by the family system.

The Stable Families homelessness prevention program is continuing its work as a pilot effort to provide intensive case management for a short period of time and to link families with community-based services. The program is now looking to establish family networks, so that families who have participated and are currently participating in Stable Families are able to connect and support each other.

[CSB NEWS]

Rescheduled: Headlines from the Frontlines

Due to the harsh winter weather the week of January 28, The Columbus Metropolitan Club forum, “Headlines from the Frontlines: The Economy’s Impact on Social Services”, has been rescheduled for February 25. The forum will feature a panel of experienced guests to address current economic challenges. Barbara Poppe is among these featured panel members. The forum is open for registration on the CMC website at www.columbusmetroclub.org.

Partner Agency Orientation

CSB will host a Partner Agency Orientation on February 25 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at CSB. The purpose of the orientation is to increase the awareness of resources and benefits available to partner agencies including partnership expectations of CSB and its funders, contract obligations, and who to contact for assistance.

Presentations Across the Nation

Barbara Poppe traveled to Houston on February 6 to speak at the 2009 Conference on Homelessness for the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County. She spoke about developing local capacity for supportive housing. She spoke again on February 12 at the 2009 National Conference on Ending Family Homelessness in San Diego, CA, on the topics of family homelessness and prevention.

Personnel Update

We are pleased to announce that Leslie Gant has been hired as CSB's new Program Manager – Family Services. Leslie has an extensive background in working with children and families. She has researched best practices for student mobility issues and developed programs for school age children. She is a graduate of the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and an active community volunteer. We are looking forward to Leslie joining the team on February 23.

Enclosures

- < FY10 Funding Recommendation
- < 2008 Snapshot Report
- < March calendar