

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Jobs2Housing

CSB was awarded \$844,634 for a Rapid Re-Housing Initiative from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Columbus was one of 23 communities to receive this highly competitive national award. The project, J2H (Jobs to Housing), builds on the existing Family Housing Collaborative. Developed in partnership with the family system providers, J2H will provide intensive case management focus on linking adults to community based employment training programs, and housing placement with a six-month rent subsidy. CSB selected the Salvation Army as the service provider in a competitive application review process last summer.

Implementation planning with partners will take place on several levels. The first will be a joint meeting between leadership for Salvation Army and CSB trustees and executive/program staff. Program implementation with CSB and Salvation Army will be designed in partnership with the family system providers and key stakeholders. This planning will be in concert with the collaborative planning workgroups from the Homelessness Prevention Fund (HPF). See related story.

This funding is part of a \$23.7 million family rapid re-housing demonstration by HUD. Of the 212 applicants, 23 grantees were selected for the pilot funding, with 4 in the state of Ohio. You can read more at <http://www.hud.gov/recovery/homeless-prevention.cfm>.

"With the foreclosure and unemployment crisis looming, millions of families - both homeowners and renters - are in danger of losing their homes so we must focus substantial resources to help those families find stable housing," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in making the announcement. "The grants being awarded today, along with the recovery plan's additional \$1.5 billion, will offer a critical lifeline to those persons and families who, after a foreclosure or job loss, might otherwise be faced with homelessness. Today we are announcing an unprecedented commitment to fund programs that have a proven track record of providing real housing solutions for our most vulnerable neighbors."

Stimulus Bill = Homelessness Prevention Fund

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), HUD is allocating \$1.5 billion to local and state governments for homelessness prevention. These funds are to be utilized for short- or medium-term rental assistance, housing search assistance, mediation or outreach to property owners, utility payments, case management, and rapid re-housing, among other homelessness preventative programs.

Columbus is to receive \$2,642,649. Franklin County will receive \$746,920. The State will receive \$26,205,724. Discussion is underway with City and County officials about strategic and coordinated use of the funds for homelessness prevention efforts. The City and County intend to partner with CSB to form four collaborative workgroups to plan implementation of homelessness prevention programs that will meet HUD guidelines. HUD will release further details on the Homelessness Prevention Fund guidelines March 19.

2009 Omnibus Appropriation Bill

Congress recently released and the House approved the FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill, which included \$75 million for supportive services in SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Homeless Programs*—a \$22 million increase over last year's level. This amount was included in the House appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services but the Senate level funded the programs, so holding on to the entire increase is remarkable! It is \$40 million above the President's FY 2009 budget request and more than double the increase won in FY 2008. Funds will be awarded via a national competition. ADAMH is taking the lead locally to facilitate development of local projects for submission to SAMHSA.

CSB sent letters to its House and Senate members, and made personal visits during recent trips to DC. Rep. Kilroy voted for the FY 2009 Omnibus package but Rep. Tiberi did not. Senator Brown voted for the bill and Senator Voinovich voted against.

Attention has already shifted to FY2010 appropriations. The National Alliance to End Homelessness has issued an official "letter of appropriations priorities", requesting additional funding for SAMHSA. The \$120 million requested would support essential homeless programs for mental health and substance treatment services linked to permanent supportive housing. Linking housing to supportive services is fundamental.

[CONTINUUM OF CARE]

HUD Awards Continuum of Care Funds

On February 19th HUD announced a funding award of \$9.2 million (compared to \$7.7 million for 2007) to assist homeless programs in Columbus and Franklin County. All programs received renewal funding and two new programs were funded: RL Leasing and Jobs2Housing (see other story). These funds represent the major source of federal assistance to meet the housing and supportive service needs of homeless individuals and families. The Continuum of Care grants will provide funding for 31 projects in Columbus and Franklin County that represent 1125 units of housing for families and individuals. Of these, 552 units are part of the Shelter Plus Care program administered by Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. A press release of the announcement and a full list of the 2008 Awards are posted on www.csb.org.

Point in Time Count

The PIT Count was held on January 27, and the results have now been finalized. The total number of unsheltered persons was 108 and the total number of sheltered (emergency shelter and transitional housing) homeless persons was 1,272. The results were submitted to COHHIO on February 24 for inclusion in the state-wide PIT Count report. A breakdown of the results for 2009 and a comparison to 2008 data is attached.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Rebuilding Lives Capital Development Discussion

In the homeless services system, there are two significant needs for capital development: build more supportive housing and create a new home for Rebecca's Place, an emergency shelter for women. The early estimate for private philanthropy investments is \$4 million; this investment is in addition to current operations/services support recognized at the Together Rebuilding Lives luncheon.

CSB held a planning breakfast with key partners in the philanthropic community on March 11, including several CSB trustees. This was a preliminary discussion and the purpose was to gather feedback on key questions: Are these reasonable requests?, What is the best approach to meeting these capital needs?, What should be the time frame?, and Should individual organizations develop organizational capital campaigns or should a community-wide campaign be developed?

The overall consensus was the meeting was an effective use of time to discover a collective, best approach. We agreed to meet again in two to three months to continue this important discussion. Thanks to Elfi Di Bella for hosting.

Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative held its quarterly meeting on February 19. The group heard a presentation on the CSB Gateway: a New, Simpler Process to Establish a Partnership Agreement, and an overview of the proposed 2009 Continuum of Care Process to be considered by the CoC Steering Committee on March 17. The RLFC also reviewed the Rebuilding Lives Evaluation Committee Charter which outlines the purpose, membership, timeline and responsibilities of the committee. The committee will oversee the evaluation of the RL Plan as comprised by its 11 new strategies and will annually issue a Report Card on the progress to date. Updates on the progress of the Rebuilding Lives (RL) Plan strategies were also provided and the convener plans for the Increase Supportive Housing Units Strategy and the Re-entry Housing Advocacy Strategy were considered and adopted. A revised development pro forma for Community Housing Network Inglewood Court was also considered and approved. The RLFC will hold a "Committee of the Whole" meeting to discuss a few of the RL Plan Strategies on May 4. The next full committee meeting is scheduled for May 28.

[Mayor Coleman's State of the City Address]

In his February 26 State of the City address, Mayor Coleman spoke on the nationwide economic crisis and the impact of the issue on Columbus. Coleman touched on growing unemployment rates and program cuts, while asking city residents to remain positive and continue looking ahead. The Mayor thanked the Community Shelter Board and Rebuilding Lives for their partnership in a plan to strengthen Downtown. The Mayor described a city-wide housing plan, and mentioned the upcoming development of the Commons at Buckingham, a 100-unit supportive housing community by National Church Residences.

USHS and Southpoint Place Pilot

The planning process for the 2nd pilot of the Unified Supportive Housing System continues to run smoothly. The Design Workgroup for the Move Up pilot will meet again in mid-March and twice at the beginning of April. The workgroup is composed of representatives from supportive housing projects, behavioral and mental health organizations and ADAMH, CMHA and CSB. So far, members of the workgroup have reviewed national best practices research and helped to develop a logic model for the Move Up pilot. Future meetings will focus on a framework for the pilot and identifying community resources.

At Southpoint Place all unit types (family and single adult) have been fully leased thanks to the hard work of all partner agencies. Special thanks to CHN for their participation in the first pilot of the Unified Supportive Housing System.

The Unified Supportive Housing System will continue to accept client forms for future vacancies at Southpoint Place Apartments. Please contact the USHS Project Manager, Anna Bianco at 614-221-9195, ext 127 or abianco@csb.org for more information.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Supportive housing projects continue to retain high occupancy rates. Thirteen of the fourteen projects had occupancy rates above 95% during the last month. Two new supportive housing projects are in the developmental stage. Community Housing Network is planning a 60-unit project called Inglewood Court on the Westside, while Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio are developing a 100-unit project, Edgehill Place, near the Grandview area.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Family System

The YWCA Family Center continues to effectively manage the front door of the family shelter system. No families have had to use hotels for overflow since November 2008. The Family System Operations Workgroup is holding monthly meetings to ensure successful collaboration so that families can transition from homelessness to stabilized housing as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The Family Systems Operations Workgroup is working to strengthen partnerships with external stakeholders as well, including Franklin County Children Services.

Adult System

The Winter Overflow System continues to operate effectively as shelters experienced additional demand during the month of February. The women's shelters were at or above capacity 21 days of the month, while the men's shelter achieved capacity 7 days during the month. The agencies comprising the shelter system continue to meet on a regular basis to ensure that communications and processes are maintained.

Critical Access to Housing

The Critical Access to Housing initiative continues to focus on persons with the most critical needs related to health and safety. Recent outreach efforts have centered on a camp near West Fifth Avenue and Olentangy River Road near a Battelle warehouse facility, where five to six people inhabit 8 to 10 tents on the bank of the river. In conjunction with the Office of Homeless and Social Service Advocacy of the City of Columbus, outreach partners initiated engagement efforts and have assisted all inhabitants in filling out applications for housing pending availability. Another area of focus is Confluence Park, where a previously cleaned up camp has been reestablished.

Recent analysis of data shows that 19% of clients served by Rebuilding Lives supportive housing during 7/1/08 – 12/31/08 had also received CAH services prior to admission into supportive housing.

CAH is a Rebuilding Lives project to engage people experiencing street homelessness who are staying in places where there are identified health and safety concerns, or otherwise need critical care and focused attention to secure housing through. CAH has three components: (1) additional permanent supportive housing units targeted to persons experiencing street homelessness, (2) enhanced street outreach focused on persons with the most critical needs related to health and safety and (3) coordinated intervention by public and private partners, including service providers, local government, law enforcement, and faith-based groups.

Neighborhood Support for Faith Mission

Lutheran Social Services-Faith Mission, with support from CSB staff member Dave Davis and CSB consultant John Hardiman, successfully negotiated a good neighbor agreement with the King Lincoln Bronzeville Neighborhood Association.

“...Homeless citizens are one of the many inter-related social issues we are facing as individuals and as a neighborhood each day and every night. The current economic stress will only increase the numbers of those needing Faith Missions help. Keep up the good work.”

*- Dana Moessner, Zoning and Development Chairman
King Lincoln Bronzeville Neighborhood Association*

“I also want to add my thanks to Faith Mission and the Community Shelter Board for stepping up and embracing this collaborative effort with the community. John Hardiman did a great job leading the GNA process and keeping the participants informed, engaged, and moving forward. Sue Villilo of Faith Mission made an extra effort by taking time to present information at the King Lincoln Roundtable which helped dispel the myths and increase the community's understanding of the work that's being done at Faith Mission. Thanks to Dave Davis for representing CSB and for his input during the meetings (and for the flyers). This was a great accomplishment.”

*-Bonita Lee, Manager
Near East Pride Center*

“It was a very fluid and professional process... I am very impressed with the speed of the resolution of this issue. I have to commend Sue Villilo of Faith Mission for her willingness to be a genuine partner. Additionally I want commend the Community Shelter Board for immediately addressing this issue and contracting with John Hardiman to facilitate this agreement. It was a win for everyone, especially the Faith Mission consumers and the KL neighborhood. Well Done. Thanks to everyone.”

*- Erika Clark Jones , Director, Office of Homeless & Social Service Advocacy
City of Columbus*

Stable Families

April will mark one complete year of operation for the program. Through February 2009, 179 families have been admitted to the program of the 361 families referred for participation. To date, 114 families have completed the program. As the program completes one year, it is starting to see success stories and families becoming more self-sufficient. Self sustaining families are better able to use the community for resources. Stable Families has begun holding family networking gatherings for participating and alumni families to serve as supports for each other.

For example, one family that Stable Families was able to assist was the Reed family. Kamesha Reed was unemployed due to illness and had newborn twins. She entered Stable Families as she was getting ready to start a new job, but she was two months behind on her rent and about to be evicted. Stable Families was able to pay her back rent and avoid an eviction. The Stable Families

Specialist also worked with Kamesha so that she was able to improve her financial management skills and to set a budget for the family.

Stable Families is an initiative to prevent homelessness, aimed at long-term housing stability, reduced student mobility and increased academic success in schools. This pilot project is made possible by the Siemer Family Foundation and United Way of Central Ohio, the Ohio Department of Development, Franklin County Commissioners and The Columbus Foundation.

[CSB NEWS]

Columbus ServicePoint Online Training

The effective utilization and analyses of data produced by the Columbus ServicePoint system relies upon accurate and complete data. To this end, CSB offers program-type specific online training for CSP Data Entry Specialists monthly and quarterly. Special request and Administrator training is provided on an as-needed basis. The online meeting service, GoToMeeting.com is utilized for this purpose. Another online service, SurveyMonkey.com is utilized for the post-training Certification Test and the Online Training Evaluation Survey.

Over the past 5 months, out of 24 participants 24 (100%) received their Columbus ServicePoint certification and completed the evaluation survey.

Responses to the Online Training Evaluation are very encouraging:

- < Over 95% of respondents felt that the training helped them to understand how CSP works and provided the skills needed to utilize the system.
- < Over 91% of respondents felt that the training provided the skills need to perform this part of their job.
- < 31% of respondents felt that they prefer online training over face to face training, while 50% had no preference.

Many respondents commented that the online aspect of the training was very convenient and efficient because they didn't have to leave their offices. A few respondents added that the one thing missing from the online training is the hands-on method of learning. They expressed a desire to be able to perform some test entries and receive feedback on their work. CSB is planning to host a face-to-face training for these participants in May.

CSB Gateway – a new, simpler process to establish a partnership agreement

The Gateway release was well received and partner agencies have responded positively, agreeing that the streamlined process reduced workload. We are also noting feedback from partner agency staff to improve on the forms and process for next year. Applications were due to CSB on March 13 and the review process is currently underway. In March and April, a one-on-one meeting will be held with each partner agency to discuss our application review results and to discuss ideas for quality improvement.

Staff is currently working toward streamlining the Program Review and Certification (PR&C) standards and process to further reduce partner agency and CSB staff time. The revised PR&C standards will become part of a new Guide to CSB. The guide will outline all standards, requirements, and the best practices for CSB funding.

Additionally, partnership agreements are being reviewed by both staff and legal counsel to reduce the length and number of attachments. Agreements for FY10 will be issued to partner agencies in early June.

Partner Agency Orientation

CSB hosted a Partner Agency Orientation on February 25 for new management staff in CSB partner agencies. CSB offers this orientation annually to increase awareness regarding resources and benefits available to partner agencies including partnership expectations of CSB and its funders, contract obligations, and contact information. CSB management staff presented information directly from CSB's new website. Participants learned about how we are ending homelessness, resources for our partners, community processes, and ways to get involved. Approximately 15 people participated, including three new CSB staff. Seven participants completed satisfaction surveys and overall feedback was good. The results of the surveys will be used in planning the next Partner Agency Orientation.

Enclosures	
<	2008/2009 Point in Time Count Comparison
<	System & Program Indicator Report
<	April calendar