

[HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM]

Stimulus Dollars Must be Spent

CSB is carefully tracking the expenditure of federal stimulus dollars through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program – HPRP. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that 60% of HPRP funds be spent by 8/3/2011. So far, our community has spent 48% of State HPRP funds, 46% of County HPRP funds, and 38% of City HPRP funds. Only 5 months remain to meet the 60% spend-down requirement. These funds are to be used only for prevention and rapid re-housing related services for families and individuals at risk of homelessness or currently homeless. All programs that were initiated due to the availability of the HPRP funds are now operational.

[ADVOCACY]

Congressman Stivers Tours Huck House

Congressman Steve Stivers, representing Ohio's 15th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, visited Huckleberry House on March 23. CSB arranged the visit to the youth program to discuss the importance of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the need for continued funding for homeless programs. Congressman Stivers was very engaged and interested in learning more about the HEARTH Act.

Advocacy on Capitol Hill

Michelle Heritage spent time in Washington, DC on April 7 and 8 with the Leadership Council of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. The group met with officials from the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Domestic Policy Council and the Veterans Administration.

While in DC, Michelle also took the opportunity to meet personally with staff from Senator Sherrod Brown's office, Congressman Patrick Tiberi's office, and Congressman Steve Stivers' office. Michelle advocated for McKinney-Vento funding for homeless programs in the FY2012 budget, increased HUD-VASH vouchers for homeless veterans, and funding for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Winter Overflow

Single adult shelters returned to their normal bed capacities on April 15, signaling the end of the winter overflow season. The alternate site for winter overflow closed on March 31. The use of the alternate site proved to be a tremendous success and aided greatly in providing shelter for homeless men and women during severe weather. The average number of women served each night beyond regular capacity during March was 41 and remained constant. The men's census dropped to an average of 121 in overflow per night. The family system has continued to remain at or near capacity, reaching overflow several times during the month. All indications are that sustained demand for shelter in both the adult and family systems will continue.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Catholic Social Services steps up to rapidly re-house families affected by domestic violence

Agencies involved in ending family homelessness and domestic violence have been collaborating to address the needs of families affected by domestic violence. Catholic Social Services will join the Community Shelter Board's network of homeless service providers to rapidly re-house homeless families being served by CHOICES.

Housing advocacy and case management by Catholic Social Services will work in tandem with rental assistance from CSB to rapidly house 25 families during a pilot phase. This means 25 families will move directly from CHOICES's shelter to safe housing, without a stop at the YWCA Family Center. A rapid housing solution for victims of domestic violence also safeguards precious resources at the Family Center for others who need help.

This approach is lauded by experts at the national level, who say that investing in these types of solutions is a good way to help domestic violence survivors avoid homelessness altogether or help to quickly re-house them. A policy brief by the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) says this approach minimizes the additional stress, displacement, and trauma that accompany homeless episodes for women and children healing from domestic violence.

Participants in our local planning include representatives from CHOICES, the Salvation Army, Homeless Families Foundation, Amethyst, Volunteers of America, Catholic Social Services, the Coalition Against Family Violence, Franklin County Children Services and CSB.

CHN In-Reach Program

Community Housing Network is operating a new program designed to provide an In-Reach Housing Facilitator to assist with placement of homeless individuals into permanent housing directly from the single adult shelters. The goal of the program is to place clients into housing within 14 days of entering a shelter, and the project is targeting those who are newly homeless – experiencing their first shelter stay. The program can provide support in locating housing and financial assistance in the form of one to two months of rent and the security deposit. Clients are expected to be able to assume responsibility to maintain housing quickly. For the remainder of this fiscal year, the project is expected to provide expedited housing placement for up to 45 individuals from the emergency shelter system. The project is expected to serve 180 individuals annually.

OHFA Housing Credit Rewards

We are pleased to announce that Community Housing Network (CHN) was awarded tax credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) under the permanent supportive housing reservation pool for a new supportive housing development, Inglewood Court. OHFA announced the awards on March 17. For this development, CHN will partner with Maryhaven to provide 60 units of supportive housing for persons disabled by severe mental illness or dually-diagnosed with severe mental illness and chemical dependency, including 45 units for Rebuilding Lives. The 15 non-Rebuilding Lives units will be reserved for ADAMH consumers coming from Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare or other ADAMH-funded residential group homes. CHN will also consider high crisis care utilization including those with alcohol/drug abuse diagnosis.

USHS Vacancy Management and Lease Up

The Unified Supportive Housing System (USHS) began lease up in March 2011 for the Community Housing Network (CHN)/Southeast Leased Supportive Housing Program. The projected lease-up time is three months, with lease up ending in May 2011.

CHN, in partnership with Southeast's Phoenix Community Treatment Team, offers 25 supportive housing units in a clustered apartment setting at Abbey Lane, Cambridge, and Eastland on the Lake Apartments. Of the 25 units, 18 are targeted to those individuals who are HUD Chronically Homeless. Individuals with the most severe and persistent barriers to housing are being prioritized, including those experiencing street homelessness and/or ineligible for other subsidized housing. USHS encourages providers to submit Indication of Interest forms for this new project.

Beginning in June 2011, the USHS will lease-up Commons at Livingston, a National Church Residences project. In partnership with the Veterans Administration, the Commons at Livingston will offer 50 supportive housing units for veterans. Of the 50 units, 25 are targeted to those veterans meeting the Rebuilding Lives eligibility criteria, and the other 25 units are reserved for veterans with a certified disability meeting low income guidelines.

In addition, there are several openings available in the YWCA WINGS program for women meeting HUD Chronically Homeless eligibility criteria.

USHS accepts and processes Indication of Interest forms for the following projects: Commons at Buckingham, Southeast Scattered Sites, Southpoint Place, YMCA 40 West

Long Street, YMCA Sunshine Terrace, and YWCA WINGS. Clients interested in obtaining housing must be referred by either a shelter or one of the outreach providers – Maryhaven Outreach, Veterans Administration, Open Shelter, Southeast Outreach or Capital Crossroads.

USHS is a collaborative effort managed by ADAMH, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) and CSB. These partners are working together with other agencies in the community including health, housing, shelter, and outreach providers. This work is sponsored by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, Fannie Mae, and Battelle.

For more information please contact Isolde Teba at 614-221-9195.

[GATEWAY]

One-on-One Meetings Underway

The Gateway review process is moving along, with CSB and its partner agencies discussing ways to work together to improve our system. Last month, partner agencies submitted their FY12 Gateway applications, and CSB staff undertook a full review of all submissions. Currently, CSB and the agencies are conducting their annual spring one-on-one meetings, which will continue through the end of April. Final funding recommendations will be made to CSB's Board of Trustees at its May 24 meeting and FY12 Partnership Agreements will be issued beginning May 25.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

COHHIO Conference

COHHIO held its annual *Housing Ohio* statewide conference on April 11 and 12. Tiffany Nobles presented a workshop at the conference on "Integrating Consumer Feedback into Program Planning" along with CSB Citizens Advisory Council members Jacci Graves, Sheila Prillerman and Douglass White. COHHIO requested the presentation because many communities are interested in how to best use the insight of persons served by the homeless services system in project developments and system improvements.

[STAFFING UPDATE]

Diversity Training

CSB staff participated in diversity training provided by Sequent on April 14. The purpose was to gain understanding of the current trends of diversity that make up our culture in the workplace.

Direct Client Assistance Intern

The Program and Planning department is pleased to announce that Daniel Praznovsky has joined CSB as a part time intern to assist with the Direct Client Assistance program. Stimulus funds from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program are allowing us to prevent homelessness and move people out of shelter more quickly through our direct client assistance program. It became necessary to add a part-time, temporary position so we can handle all the additional direct client assistance processing. Daniel is a student at The Ohio State University majoring in economics. He is also an intern in financial planning at UBS Financial Services.

Upcoming Meetings

< Check out the interactive calendar at www.csb.org under Resources for our Partners < Meetings.