

Open for Bid: Coordinated Access for Single Adults

The Community Shelter Board is requesting proposals for operation of a coordinated access for single adults. The program serves as the “front door” for the single adult emergency shelter system. In its first two years of operation, the program has been a beneficial tool targeting the diversion of individuals away from shelter, improving the efficiency of the shelter intake process, and creating a common language between shelter providers.

The [Request for Proposals and application materials](#) are available on our web site via this link. The deadline for all submissions is no later than 5 pm on Jan. 6, 2012. The contract period runs from 3/1/12 through 2/28/13, and may be extended given successful service provision and the outcome of the Adult Crisis Response System Redesign.

If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please direct them to:

- < Amy Price, Director of Programs and Planning, at aprice@csb.org
- < Noel Welsh, Grants Administrator, at nwelsh@csb.org

Please note that CSB’s office will be closed to the public from December 24, 2011 to January 1, 2012.

[RESOURCE GENERATION]

City and County Budgets Finalized Soon

Michelle Heritage testified at a budget hearing for the Franklin County Board of Commissioners on November 29 about the increasing demand for overflow shelter for families experiencing homelessness.

Michelle testified at a budget hearing for Columbus City Council’s Health, Housing and Human Services Committee on December 7. Lianna Barbu testified at Columbus City Council’s general budget hearing on December 15.

CSB is very grateful to our public leaders for their commitment to ending homelessness.

HUD Point in Time Count Set for Jan. 27

Planning is underway for the Annual Point in Time Count of unsheltered persons. The U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development requires all communities to conduct their count during the last ten days of January 2012. The date for the unsheltered homeless count in Columbus is Friday, January 27, 2012. The unsheltered street count will occur during the 4:00 am - 7:00 am period. The meal site count will occur throughout the day of January 27.

Tiffany Nobles, CSB's Program Administrator and Continuum of Care Coordinator, will work with volunteers and CSB staff to coordinate the count and evaluation process. The Homeless Count Workgroup will estimate the number of volunteers needed for the count and duties involved. Volunteers will be recruited, trained, and assigned as needed to conduct a comprehensive count. Volunteer sign-up forms will be posted to www.csb.org. Please contact Tiffany Nobles at tnobles@csb.org or (614) 221-9195 x117 with any questions related to the Point in Time Count.

[PUBLIC POLICY]

HUD Redefines “Homeless”

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued a new and clarified definition of the term “homeless”. It comes with many implications around eligibility for services, funding and recordkeeping. CSB is studying the new policy carefully and will implement refinements as needed. The definition, as summarized by CSB, is attached.

HUD Issues New Interim Regulations

From the National Alliance to End Homelessness

HUD has posted the *interim* regulation for the new Emergency Solutions Grants program and the corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan regulations to the [HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange website](#). The regulation was published in the Federal Register last week and will be effective January 4, 2012.

The Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG) builds upon the existing Emergency Shelter Grants program, but includes new activities in order to emphasize assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. To reflect this new emphasis, the ESG program expands the homelessness prevention component of the Emergency Shelter Grants program and adds a new rapid re-housing assistance component. In developing ESG, HUD relied on its experience with its administration, and that of HUD's grantees, of the HPRP program. HPRP was the first HUD program to significantly fund homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing assistance; therefore, HUD has drawn from its recent program experience with HPRP (a temporary program) to establish the regulations for the permanent ESG program.

HUD is publishing the ESG interim regulation prior to the final rule in order to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed policies in the regulation. Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding the ESG rule for up to 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Winter Overflow for Single Adults

The Winter Overflow System is up and running. CSB has contracted with the YMCA and YWCA to provide alternate site overflow services from November 15, 2011 – March 15, 2012. The men's and women's alternate site locations are currently operating from 8:00 pm – 6:00 am. There are no day services or shelter case management services being provided through the contracts. Both the YMCA and the YWCA have worked with community partners to provide evening meals and breakfasts.

The YMCA has partnered with Sunshine Terrace's food pantry to be able to provide food to the men. The YWCA has partnered with the faith-based community to assist with single women overflow this year. When the City of Columbus Department of Public Safety was unable to issue overnight permits to local churches willing to participate in sheltering single women, the faith-based community was willing to embrace alternative ways to remain an integral and vital part of the single women's overflow system. As such, the faith-based community is ensuring some of the most fundamental needs are being met such as meals, showers, and laundry during the coldest and darkest months of the year. Effective December 21, 2011, the single women's alternate site will have a consistent location. CSB thanks the staff of the YMCA for graciously assisting the YWCA by making nighttime accommodations available to single women for most of this interim period.

The Central Point of Access (CPOA) remains responsible for triaging all single adults wishing to access emergency shelter. CPOA will first explore with individuals any and all safe, appropriate housing options they may have available to them in order to divert them from a shelter stay during their housing crisis. If an individual does not have any other viable housing options, CPOA will admit them to a shelter. If no space is available within Faith Mission, Friends of the Homeless or Volunteers of America, CPOA will help individuals access an overflow bed at an alternate site. Individuals will be transported to the respective alternate site on the first night they are accessing shelter. Each individual who continues to need emergency shelter will receive a bus pass each morning to return to the alternate site. Individuals who fail to return to the alternate site by 8:00 pm, unless prior arrangements have been made, will forfeit their overflow bed and will need to begin the overflow process again through CPOA should they need to return to shelter. CPOA will maintain ongoing communication with shelter providers in order to ensure all existing program and overflow beds at the shelters are at capacity prior to utilizing an alternate overflow site. In instances of severe weather, all persons seeking shelter will be accommodated to ensure their safety, regardless of eligibility or capacity. All eligible individuals will be served within the scope of available resources.

While seasonal overflow is in process, services and operational issues will be monitored and addressed in adult shelter system overflow meetings every other week. Participants in the biweekly meetings include Faith Mission, Friends of the Homeless, Maryhaven, Volunteers of America, YMCA, YWCA, Netcare, Columbus Police Department winter overflow liaison and CSB.

CSB thanks the staff of the YMCA and YWCA, along with all the existing shelters for stretching their capacities during the coldest months of the year. CSB along with the shelter community is extremely grateful for the opportunity to be strengthening collaborations, old and new, with the faith-based community during this time of greatest

need. We are also grateful to St. Stephen's Community House and Michelle Mills for their assistance and support.

Families experiencing a housing crisis need to call the YWCA Family Center.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Posted: Development & Communications Administrator

Chris Kloss, Development & Communications Administrator, is moving on and saying farewell after 15 years at CSB. She'll be joining the Columbus Foundation in their donor services office. Chris has done a lot of great work for CSB, including managing all the logistics for the Together Rebuilding Lives event, carefully managing our donor database, and helping us put out great annual reports and snapshot reports each year. She will be missed, but we are excited for her as she begins this next chapter of her career.

We have posted the [Development & Communications](#) position and ask that you consider whether you know any potential candidates. Feel free to pass the posting along to others.

What's for Dinner?

Members of CSB's Board of Trustees joined CSB staff for a second evening of serving dinner at the YWCA Family Center on December 8. Thanks to everyone who rolled up their sleeves to help families experiencing homelessness.



Greta Russell, Teresa McWain, Michelle Heritage, Doug Herron, Colleen Buzza, Elfi Di Bella, Pat Cash



Sara and Maya Loken



Greta Russell and Colleen Buzza



Mike and Sara Boothe



Keiko Takusagawa, Paul Koehler, Erin Maus, Melanie Woodrum

All Sides with Ann Fisher

All Sides with Ann Fisher on WOSU recently featured Michelle Heritage, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt from the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and Bill Faith from COHHIO to talk about helping those in need during the holidays.

All Sides with Ann Fisher is a live, public affairs talk show, with listener phone calls and emails, on WOSU public radio. [Click here to view the video.](#)



Lisa Hamler-Fugitt of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, Michelle Heritage of Community Shelter Board, Bill Faith of COHHIO, Ann Fisher of All Sides with Ann Fisher.

Upcoming Meetings

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

Enclosures

- ⟨ Homeless definition
- ⟨ System and Program Indicator Report, FY2012 Quarter 1