

[RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT]

Stimulus Funds = Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

Mayor Coleman issued a charge letter (see attached) on April 2 to the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative, to assist the City and the County in developing and implementing a homelessness prevention plan to submit to HUD. Briefings with County Commissioners are currently underway. The City and County must provide a plan to HUD by May 19, 2009.

The plan will respond to the new stimulus funds being issued under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and will meet HUD's guidelines and requirements. The 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. 25% of the funds have been reserved for current City-funded programs as the City's financial situation continues to deteriorate.

Several collaborative workgroups are forming within the community to plan implementation of various programs:

Coordinate Emergency Aid to Prevent Homelessness – United Way of Central Ohio is developing a plan with the Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services for a coordinated system for emergency assistance, so that priority is given to families and individuals with the greatest need.

Adult System Improvement – Agencies serving single adults had a kick-off meeting April 20 to begin planning improvements for the adult shelter system, including reduced shelter admissions, increased outcomes and reduced daily shelter demand. This will include a newly designed single point of access for adults in need of shelter.

Family System Improvement – Agencies providing family shelter will kick-off their planning April 23 to increase outcomes and reduce daily shelter demand by families. Their planning will consider how to implement a newly HUD-funded effort, called Job2Housing (see other story), which will focus on better linking adults to community based employment training programs and housing. No HPRP dollars are targeted for these efforts.

Planning dollars available from Butler Family Fund

CSB, at the request of the Butler Family Fund based in Washington, DC, submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$25,000 for consideration at the Fund's May 2009 board meeting. CSB is requesting funding to support planning efforts around the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Fund dollars. The proposal also includes support for peer-to-peer best practices sharing and support with Cleveland. Support from the Butler Family Fund will be used toward the work of the increasing services to homeless families and the coordinating emergency aid collaborative planning teams.

A key component of the planning for both these Collaborative Planning Teams will involve sharing best practices and peer-to-peer support with another city within Ohio, specifically Cleveland. The peer-to-peer sharing will enable the homeless systems of both Cleveland and Columbus to share and exchange best practices among themselves as well as provide peer-to-peer support for replicating or adapting best practices.

Homelessness Prevention for Persons with Mental Illness – ADAMH is leading efforts to plan a bridge to housing for state hospital patients who do not have housing available upon discharge.

Other services – These include a Housing Locator, as well as administrative costs related to housing inspections, data and evaluation and grants management.

You can find more information and answers to frequently asked questions at www.csb.org.

The Columbus Foundation – Critical Need Alert

CSB received one of the largest checks from The Columbus Foundation Critical Need Alert (second to Mid-Ohio Foodbank). Thanks to our generous community, CSB received \$259,775.56. Because of our wonderful partners and friends, by contributing in this way, we received \$86,000 in matching funds. Over \$119,000 is additional revenue – from the \$86,000 in match funds plus general gifts made to the Safety Net Fund.

As you know, the Critical Need Alert was announced at an essential time for our community and organization. We are expecting an increase in need while the philanthropic community is facing difficult economic decisions. We are grateful to everyone who made this possible: The Columbus Foundation team, donors of The Columbus Foundation, and our generous community. The Alert leveraged over \$1.5 million for shelter and food services. Of this total, \$660,000 went to shelter programs, including many of our partner agencies.

United Way Campaign Update

The 2008 United Way campaign fell considerably short this year. At the end of March, the campaign closed at \$52,155,000, a decrease of around \$3.9 million (-6.9%) from the 2007 campaign total. Despite this drop, the Central Ohio UW fared much better than a number of others around the country, and this total still represents the achievement of all volunteers and staff. However, the projected campaign total is expected to remain low for next year as well, and the United Way is currently actively working to obtain new funds. CSB anticipates a 3-5% decrease in United Way funding for July – December 2009.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

Meeting to Review Rebuilding Lives Strategies

The Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) will hold a Committee of the Whole meeting on **Monday, May 4 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at CSB** to hear presentations on convener plans for the Collaborative Outreach System and Affordable Housing Campaign strategies that emerged as part of the RLUS process. The City of Columbus was identified as the convener of both strategies. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Tiffany Nobles, CSB Program Administrator at tnobles@csb.org or 221-9195 x117.

Rebuilding Lives Eligibility

CSB has revised all of the Rebuilding Lives eligibility documentation materials and forms. The new forms will need to become part of the clients' files starting **July 1, 2009**, and should be used only for clients admitted into Rebuilding Lives projects after July 1, 2009. CSB will train permanent supportive housing providers on these new forms at the RL PSH Roundtable Provider meeting

tentatively scheduled for June 11 and emergency shelter and outreach services providers in June as well, at a date to be announced.

The new documentation brings clarity to the eligibility requirements for both Rebuilding Lives (RL) and Chronic Homeless (CH) units in our community and describes the differences between the two types of units. Two changes in the eligibility criteria are worth mentioning - While transitional housing is an acceptable prior living situation for a person entering a RL project, that person's stay in transitional housing does not count toward meeting the RL eligibility criteria on homelessness; the RL criteria needs to be met prior to client's admission in transitional housing. The second change is that the disability of a client entering a RL project will need to be certified by a licensed social worker.

In addition, a standardized Street Homelessness Certification form was added and will need to be completed for each client entering a RL or CH unit from the street or who had past street homelessness counting towards meeting the RL or CH eligibility criteria. Also, a new Long-Term Unemployed Certification form was added that needs to be completed for those individuals entering a RL unit that have as a disability long-term unemployment.

If you have any immediate questions please contact Dave Davis or Lianna Barbu at CSB.

Unified Supportive Housing System

The USHS Move Up Pilot Design Workgroup is completing their work developing an overall framework for the Move Up Pilot. This pilot will focus on assisting those clients that would benefit from more independent housing and who have a desire to move out of supportive housing. After the conclusion of the Design Workgroup, the USHS Policy Council will select interested supportive housing providers to implement the pilot. The selected agencies will have representation on a second workgroup, the USHS Move Up Pilot Implementation Workgroup. This group will meet to detail policies and procedures as well as create an implementation plan. The Pilot is anticipated to begin sometime this fall.

The evaluation for Southpoint Place will begin this summer and should conclude in September. Information on the project evaluation and the pilot processes will be made available to all interested agencies when the report is issued.

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 at abianco@csb.org for more information.

MACC Honors Mike Tynan

Congratulations to **Mike Tynan** at Community Housing Network for being selected by the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council to receive their Living Faith Award. MACC is honoring Mike for his exemplary faith within his outreach work as the Director of Housing Services at Community Housing Network and his commitment to social justice and the rights of homeless persons.

For more information on the May 28 awards ceremony please visit the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Council website at <http://www.churchcouncilofcolumbus.org/lfa.htm>.

[CONTINUUM OF CARE]

CoC Steering Committee Approves New Approach

At its meeting on March 17 the Continuum of Care Steering Committee (CoC SC) approved a new approach to CoC SC processes. The proposal was developed by CSB in an effort to streamline and create more efficiency in its processes. Significant input was received from all stakeholders. One major change is that the committee will hold fewer meetings – three to four per year as opposed to bi-monthly or monthly. Such a change directly results in time and cost savings to the volunteer representatives on the CoC SC (review materials prior to the meetings as well as attend), on CSB (provide meeting support through material preparation, meeting facilitation and note-taking as well as catering) and the provider agency representatives (attend meetings and often prepare update reports on their programs). The CoC SC also approved an increase to its membership from 24 to 26 representatives in order to increase the number of provider representatives on the committee from four to six. Other approved processes included CoC SC Policy Statements, FY2010 Program Performance Standards and Ratings and Annual Plan (this plan will be considered for approval in March of each year). The meeting minutes and the final versions of all approved documents are posted on www.csb.org under how we are ending homelessness < community processes < continuum of care.

[PROGRAM UPDATES]

Job2Housing

A joint meeting was held between leadership for Salvation Army and CSB trustees and executive/program staff on March 23, to kick off the Job2Housing (J2H) program. The program aims to reduce the incidence of homelessness by assisting homeless families to achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency, and will serve 120 households over three years.

J2H will serve homeless families with children who have insufficient income to afford an apartment and are committed to pursuing employment to achieve family self-sufficiency. J2H will provide housing placement, leasing assistance for up to six months, and employment focused case management.

Further implementation planning among family system partners and key stakeholders will be in concert with the collaborative planning workgroups from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (see related story). Columbus was one of 23 communities to receive this highly competitive national award from HUD.

Family System

With the YWCA Family Center serving as the “front door,” the family system has been able to effectively manage the demand for shelter in such a way as to significantly reduce the need for overflow. In fact, The Salvation Army Direct Housing program has been able to expand its eligible target population (see related story, *Direct Housing for Women*). While families continue to be the priority, the program will also now serve single women residing at Nancy's Place (Faith Mission) and Rebecca's Place (Friends of the Homeless).

The family system is also moving forward in collaborating with external partners. The system is in the process of developing and finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Franklin County Children Services. The family system partners are also looking at maximizing existing community resources by formalizing relationships with Goodwill Columbus and other employment programs.

Adult System

The Winter Overflow System concluded its ramp down process, with shelter capacity returning to normal levels as of April 15. The shelters are working to house and move willing individuals to regular shelter beds. The remainder of the ramp down will be achieved through attrition, as those clients who are not interested in shelter program services will exit. The Winter Overflow process was a collaborative success for the shelters involved. Improvements were noted in operations during severe weather days and in communications among the participating agencies. Information is being compiled for a report on activities and statistics that will be completed in May.

Critical Access to Housing

CAH continues to focus on persons with the most critical needs related to health and safety. Outreach staff continues to engage and offer services to these individuals. Outreach staff was able to assist a couple at the camp near West Fifth Avenue and Olentangy River Road near a Battelle warehouse facility to enter housing. Additionally, plans are to have the remaining two individuals at the camp housed by the end of April. At that time, the City will be able to come in and clean up the area.

Stable Families

With one year of operation completed in April, the Stable Families program has had 421 referrals as of March 31. Of these referrals, 282 families were assessed and 212 were admitted into the program. Through the end of March, 139 families have completed their participation in the Stable Families program.

The program continues to increase its reach and to serve even more families. Stable Families staff are working to effectively increase community knowledge of the program and to obtain referrals from a broadened geographic area. At the request of the community, Stable Families has begun taking referrals from Whitehall. The program has also begun holding family networking meetings for participating and alumni families to form a system of support for each other and to connect with additional community resources.

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.

Direct Housing for Women

A new effort has been implemented with the Salvation Army to assist single women in shelters to access direct housing. The program is designed to work with the women's shelters – Nancy's Place and Rebecca's Place – to target individuals that need extra assistance with housing placement and home-based case management. The Salvation Army will work with the two shelters to refer the women to appropriate housing. This new resource for women results from a seasonal decrease in demand for family shelter. Doing so allows for the re-positioning of resources to assist single women. Priority for services to families that enter the YWCA Family Center will remain. This project will run through June 2009 and the results will be evaluated for future consideration.

Direct Client Assistance

During March 2009, CSB conducted a survey with partner agencies to determine the efficiency of the newly streamlined DCA application process and to receive partner agency input on a proposed DCA Client Satisfaction Survey.

CSB received a 60.6% response rate from partner agencies. Overall, partner agency staff are satisfied with the newly streamlined DCA application process, forms, and training opportunities. The comment most often received was to revise the DCA application form so the client's signature was on a separate page. Revisions to the forms are in progress and expected to be available for use by July 2009. Through input from the partner agency staff, a DCA Client Satisfaction Survey will be sent to all DCA recipients. A summary of findings will be provided and shared with all partner agencies once all responses have been collected.

CSB is forming a DCA Advisory Group to problem solve around common DCA concerns as well as allow partner agency input into the DCA program process. One DCA representative from each partner agency will participate in the Advisory Group. In addition, there will be a DCA New User/Refresher Training for all partner agency staff to attend on April 27.

[ADVOCACY]

Hill Visits

Barbara Poppe attended the National Alliance to End Homelessness awards ceremony in DC on April 2. While in town, she met with Senator Brown and his staff, Representatives Driehaus and Kilroy, and staff of Representative Kaptur. A host of legislative topics were covered, including the newest McKinney Reauthorization bill and a proposed fix for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Ohio Tenant Protection Act

The Ohio House of Representatives will vote this month on the Ohio Tenant Protection Act. If passed, the act would provide notice and protection to tenants in the event of foreclosure by requiring landlords to inform new tenants of foreclosure, provide current tenants with notice within 60 days of entering foreclosure, convert existing rental agreements to month-to-month tenancy, and transfer renters' security deposits from the previous owner to the purchaser.

McKinney Reauthorization Bill Introduced

On April 2, the House and Senate introduced legislation for the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants Program. The reauthorization provides an expansion of the definition of homelessness to include people who are losing their housing in the next 14 days and who lack resources or support networks to obtain housing, as well as families and youth who are persistently unstable and lack independent housing and will continue to do so. With support, the bill would improve communities' ability to re-house those in need.

Advocacy with our members of the House and Senate is underway to request that they co-sponsor this important legislation.

[CSB NEWS]

Streamlining efforts continue

CSB has been working to revise and streamline the Program Review and Certification standards and the partnership agreements.

The ***Guide to CSB*** is a new online resource that will be available for partner agencies. The Guide will be located on CSB's website and will serve as a centralized location for agencies to find all Supportive Housing materials, CSP materials, financial tools, and the PR&C standards. The required standards have been revised and organized to provide more clarity to partner agencies.

Beginning with FY10, CSB is implementing a new process for partnership agreements. Each agency will have one Master Provider Agreement, which covers general agency topics. Additionally, each agency will have a Funded Partnership Agreement for any CSB-funded programs and/or a Non-Funded Partnership Agreement for any non-CSB funded programs. There is a separate agreement for Pater Noster House, an agency that participates in CSP and is not funded by CSB nor HUD. This new process should help to minimize the administrative burden for reviewing and executing partnership agreements annually.

Copies of the revised versions of these agreements will be released to agencies for comment on May 11. Agencies will be given two weeks to review the new documents and provide CSB with any comments. We are nearing the end of the Gateway process. 1-on-1 meetings have been held with each agency as we move toward funding awards and partnership agreements.

City ESG Monitoring

During a recent city-wide audit and review of ESG implementation, CSB was found to be making diligent efforts in applying with all federal and contractual requirements, and the reviewers cited no concerns.

Board of Trustees Meeting

CSB's next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm (note special time). It will be an extended meeting, beginning at 11:30 am and ending at 2:30 pm. The board is scheduled to adopt the new annual budget and make funding awards to partner agencies.

The meeting will be held at Goodwill Columbus, 1331 Edgehill Road, Columbus 43212. Goodwill provides vocational, personal, social, and community services to people living with disabilities or other special needs. They provide very valuable employment and training services to the community, and are partnering with Volunteers of America to develop a new supportive housing community called Edgehill Place.

The board meeting agenda will be posted at www.csb.org in early May. Like all CSB board meetings, this meeting is open to the public and the media. If you or your staff would like to attend, please RSVP to scloken@csb.org.

Professional development

Congratulations to Shawn Hufstедler and Subha Lembach, who were accepted to the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education. Both will be participating in *Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Nonprofit Organizations* May 26-29 in Cambridge, MA. This is the course that Barbara Poppe and Lianna Barbu attended in 2008.

Sara Loken, Tiffany Nobles and Subha Lembach will receive training in the *Art of Hosting Meaningful Conversations* to advance CSB's practice of discussion and facilitation techniques. The training will be held May 14-17 in Mt. Sterling, OH.

Grants Administrator

Michael Madry, Grants Administrator, has accepted the position of Field Coordinator for The Ohio State University School of Social Work. We wish him the best in his new position. As we look to fill this vacancy, we are pleased to announce that Claire Patterson has accepted the position of Interim Grants Administrator and began work on March 30. Claire holds her Juris Doctorate from Capital University Law School and has experience with project management that should help her confidently fill this position.

Program Manager – Family Services

Leslie Gant, CSB's Program Manager – Family Services, recently tendered her resignation. Consequently, we are currently recruiting for a Program Manager – Family Services. If you know of qualified candidates, please refer them to us and pass along the position posting, which can be found at www.csb.org under about us < csb staff < job openings.

Tours

In March and early April, CSB provided the following tours: Southpoint Place for Columbus City Council Members Eileen Paley and Troy Miller; YWCA Family Center for Stacey Connaughton and Jessica Sauter from Cameron Mitchell Restaurants; Southpoint Place for Adrienne Selsor from Battelle, Matt Harris from NetJets, and Sarah Morton from Bob Evans; and Commons at Grant for Amy Timmons from Abbott Nutrition.

New Interactive Calendar

In a continued effort to make its website more user-friendly and informative, CSB has changed the format of its Program Activity Calendar. The calendar is now in an interactive version which allows visitors to filter activities based on their interests (i.e. Continuum of Care, Columbus ServicePoint (CSP), Adult System, etc.) as well view and print in different formats (i.e. month view, week view, work week view, etc.). The new format enables users to click on the specific meeting/event to view more detailed information such as location, description, contact person, etc. CSB is working to ensure that all meeting/events going forward have the detailed information included. Because of this new format, the Program Activity Calendar will no longer be issued with the monthly communiqué. The calendar can be found at www.csb.org under resources for our partners < meetings.



Congratulations to Melanie Woodrum, Bookkeeper, and her husband, Aaron Woodrum. They welcomed a healthy baby girl, Aubrey Grace, on March 18.

Melanie is expected to return to work in mid-May. In the meantime, Mike Edwards, a student from Otterbein College, is serving as a part-time intern.

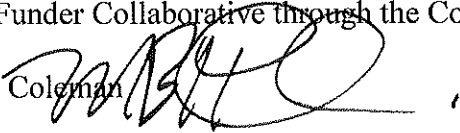


City Of Columbus
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

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To: Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative through the Community Shelter Board

From: Mayor Michael B. Coleman 

Re: New Emergency Shelter Grant allocation for homelessness prevention

Date: April 2, 2009

Recently the U.S. Congress passed and President Obama signed into law The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The ARRA is an economic recovery act that includes \$1.5 billion for a Homelessness Prevention Fund (HPF) to pay for homelessness prevention and re-housing. The City of Columbus has been awarded a formula allocation of \$2,642,649 under HPF. These funds provide Columbus an opportunity to prevent homelessness for many of its citizens that will otherwise become homeless because of the recession.

The City of Columbus joins Franklin County, which also received a formula allocation of \$746,920, in charging the Rebuilding Lives Funder Collaborative (RLFC) with assisting the City and the County in developing and implementing a homelessness prevention plan to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in accordance with its HPF guidelines and requirements.

I believe that RLFC, as it works with the Community Shelter Board, is highly capable of producing a plan that strategically invests HPF dollars and maximizes other community resources. It is our expectation that the plan should assist the greatest number of homeless and at risk individuals and families and prepare our community for future needs in this regard. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "In addition to preventing increases in homelessness due to the recession, the Homelessness Prevention Fund offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform homeless assistance to be more effective and efficient." I have the confidence that in partnership we can seize this opportunity.

Thank you for your assistance in this effort.

Table 1

Entity	Formula Allocation
City of Columbus	\$2,642,649
Franklin County	+ \$746,920
Total City/County	\$3,389,569

c: Michael Mentel, President of Council
Council Member Charleta Tavares
Michael D. Reese, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Boyce Safford, Director of Development