

[RESOURCE GENERATION]

City Awards Shelter Improvement Funds

After careful consideration and review, \$250,000 in Emergency Shelter Rehabilitation funding has been awarded to four applicants courtesy of the City of Columbus Development Department. Each of the four agencies that submitted a grant application – YWCA Columbus, Lutheran Social Services, Southeast Inc., and Huckleberry House – received a funding award.

Emergency Shelter Rehabilitation funding will be used to address a variety of concerns within the Columbus shelter system, including updated kitchen equipment for homeless families, renovated restroom facilities for homeless single adults and teens, and a new laundry facility that will serve hundreds of individuals who are homeless each night. This funding comes at a crucial time for our clients and our partner agencies, and we wish to extend our thanks to the City of Columbus for its continued commitment to ending homelessness.

[HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM]

60% Stimulus Milestone Met

CSB is managing the expenditure of federal stimulus dollars through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program – HPRP. Sixty percent of the funds awarded to our community have been spent down – right on schedule with the spending requirements from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Partner agencies worked very hard to administer programs to those who need assistance, under HUD scrutiny to meet the 60% spend down requirement by the end of July. CSB staff also exerted amazing effort to process a record number of applications for Direct Client Assistance, complete housing inspections, keep up with data analysis, and track and report these funds. CSB staffer Erin Maus was deployed to Gladden Community House to administer extra Direct Client Assistance to homeless families during June and July.

Now begins the process to carefully monitor spending to make sure stimulus dollars are not expended too quickly. All funds must be spent by July 2012, but premature exhaustion of the funds will result in early closure of prevention and rapid re-housing programs.

[ADVOCACY]

CSB Leaders Attended National Conference on Ending Homelessness

Michelle Heritage and Lianna Barbu attended the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Washington, DC held July 12th -15th sponsored by the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Michelle presented a workshop entitled “Retooling the Crisis Response System”, which looked specifically at CSB’s crisis response plan from shelter intake to placing clients in permanent supportive housing. The goal was to help participants learn more effective strategies for their own crisis response plans.

Lianna led a technical assistance meeting with leaders from Grand Rapids, Michigan. The community visited Community Housing Network earlier in the month to discuss their own supportive housing programs. They were impressed by the work of CSB, and wanted more details about our structure and performance management system.

Capitol Hill Day

While in DC for the NAEH conference, Michelle Heritage served as State Captain for Ohio and partnered with members from organizations around the state to meet with various legislators. Participating organizations included the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Faith Mission, Daybreak, and the Lucas County Homelessness Board. Members from these organizations joined Michelle for meetings with Congressman Steve Austria, Patrick Jackson from the Office of Senator Sherrod Brown, John Miceli from the Office of Congressman Steve LaTourette, John Brodtke from the Office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and Aja Brooks from the Office of Senator Rob Portman. We asked for their continued support of McKinney Vento funding, HUD-VASH vouchers, Section 8 Housing, SAMHSA Programs and the Runaway and the Homeless Youth Act.

[CRISIS RESPONSE]

Record High Number of Families Seek Shelter

We are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of families accessing shelter. During Fiscal Year 2011, 16% more families were served in emergency shelters than in the prior fiscal year.

We have seen a 5,814% increase over last year’s overflow usage, both in nights of shelter and associated costs. The cost for overflow this past fiscal year was \$270,000, compared to \$5,000 spent the year before. This alarming upward trend has hit a record high this summer. In July 2011, the YWCA Family Center provided 1,000 nights of overflow shelter, compared to 118 nights in July 2010. The YWCA Family Center is working very hard and doing a great job to keep families safe and get them to housing.

Winter Overflow Planning Underway

The YMCA of Central Ohio will take the lead to manage overflow services for single men this winter. Shelters will expand their capacity by up to approximately 130 beds. CSB is working closely with the YMCA to ready an alternate overflow location that will allow for expanded capacity in the event that our fixed shelters become overwhelmed during extreme weather conditions. Total overflow capacity will be approximately 150 beds.

The YWCA will provide overflow services for single women, using an interfaith hospitality model. Many congregations have already stepped up to help. Please contact Ginger Young at gyoung@ywcacolumbus.org to be part of this effort.

Shelter Redesign Retreat

CSB will hold a strategy session with national thought leaders, key community stakeholders and partner agency CEOs about homelessness in early September. The purpose is to begin development of a strategic re-design of the adult shelter system in Columbus and Franklin County. We are at a critical juncture with the federal stimulus dollars set to expire while we continue to have an increased need for prevention, shelter and housing resources. The system, as it is currently structured, is not sustainable. We will work to determine the best path for single adults experiencing homelessness. We will examine this on many levels – including infrastructure, services, operations and outcomes.

Grange Emerging Leader Program

We are pleased to have Grange Insurance partnering with CSB through Grange's Emerging Leader Program. Sixteen Grange associates going through the emerging leader program will spend 20 hours with us to conduct an analysis of the Centralized Point of Access, with the goal to improve its operations. The participants were trained by a work flow mapping expert from OSU, Dr. Ron Jacobs, and members of our staff were able to join the training held on July 21st.

[ACCESS]

Using Shelter Diversion to Reduce Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness published a new paper about how shelter diversion enables communities to reduce homelessness. The paper, [*Closing the Front Door: Creating a Successful Diversion Program for Homeless Families*](#), provides information on the key elements of diversion programs, describes how to measure progress, and highlights communities using the model successfully. We are proud to be included in this paper for our work with Communities in Schools and the Stable Families program.

[REBUILDING LIVES]

County HUD Award for Rebuilding Lives

Every year, the Ohio Conference of Community Development holds an annual meeting hosted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD recognizes grantees and programs that display excellence in the fulfillment of HUD's mission and achievement of local goals. HUD presented an Award of Excellence to Franklin County for the Rebuilding Lives Initiative for its place-based approach to transform a community. Michelle Heritage attended the event on July 27th to accept the award alongside Franklin County staff. Michelle also presented a workshop during the event on CSB's work, and how we have transformed our community since our founding in 1986. She discussed the CSB mission, layout of our plan, goals, and how we are working to end homelessness in the Franklin County community through innovative solutions, collaborations, and investments in quality programs.

USHS Vacancy Management and Lease Up

Lease up for the Commons at Livingston, a National Church Residences project ended July 2011. Veterans were housed in 50 units, 25 units meeting the Rebuilding Lives eligibility criteria, and the other 25 units reserved for veterans with a certified disability meeting low income guidelines. The Commons at Livingston has now transitioned into the vacancy management phase.

Openings continue throughout Unified Supportive Housing System for single adults. In order to facilitate vacancy management, USHS is using a new tool to assess client vulnerability. The assessment was successfully piloted through USHS prior to implementation. The usage of the assessment is detailed in the recently updated [USHS Policies and Procedures](#).

USHS accepts and processes indication of interest forms for the following projects: Commons at Buckingham, Commons at Livingston, Community Housing Network Scattered Sites, Southeast Scattered Sites, Southpoint Place, YMCA 40 W. Long St., YMCA Sunshine Terrace, and YWCA WINGS. Individuals interested in obtaining housing must be referred either by an emergency 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 the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Community Shelter Board. 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, USHS Project Manager, at 614-221-9195.

Transitional Age Youth

Under the charge of Franklin County Commission President Marilyn Brown and Columbus City Councilmember Hearcel Craig, the Community Shelter Board has convened a group of providers serving homeless youth with a specific focus on those who are 18-24 years old. The first meeting held in June focused on defining the intent of the workgroup, agreeing to participate – personally and organizationally – in the work moving forward and developing a framework/structure for doing the work. The second meeting held in August was focused on sharing the collective data/information on the current system – reflecting on the needs/gaps that may exist, identifying actions that the group can take together to fill those gaps and developing a framework/structure for doing this work. Smaller workgroups were formed around subtopics and will meet between August and October. The larger group will reconvene in November.

The group consists of representatives from the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board, Buckeye Ranch, Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority, COHHIO Youth Empowerment Program, Columbus City Schools, Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Franklin County Children’s Services, Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas – Juvenile Branch, Huckleberry House, City of Columbus – Mayor’s Office, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, OSU Star House, Salvation Army, United Way of Central Ohio, National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Community Shelter Board.

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT]

Tours

CSB provided a tour in late June of the YWCA Family Center and Commons at Buckingham for Lisa Poole of Park National Bank, and Felecia Paras Krakowka. In July, we provided a tour for Joe Hamrock and Matt Kyle from AEP Ohio and visited the YWCA Family Center. In August, Ian Jackson and Pat Cash from PNC joined us for a tour of the YWCA Family Center and Commons at Livingston. We also provided another tour of Commons at Livingston for Honda of America associates Caroline Ramsey, Nancy Larry and Bobbie Jo Trittschuh.

[STAFF UPDATE]

Director of Programs and Planning

Dave Davis has left CSB to pursue other opportunities. We wish him well in his future endeavors. Interviews are underway to fill the Director of Programs and Planning role at CSB. The job description is posted on our website. Until we have filled this position, please refer all inquiries related to program issues to Michelle Heritage.

Finance Administrator

Wilma D'Souza has joined CSB as its new Finance Administrator. Wilma maintains the accounting system and handles accounts payable, grants payable and accounts receivable. She assists with the budget, financial statement and audit work preparation. Wilma comes to us from The Ohio State University where she managed the financial budgets of the student governments and various other student organizations. Prior to that, she was Deputy Fiscal Officer of the Upper Arlington Public Library in charge of accounting and payroll functions. She has a Master's in Business Administration from Pittsburg State University and is a Certified Public Accountant.



Development Director

In continued efforts to streamline organizational effectiveness and efficiency, we are pleased to announce a change to our organizational structure on our development and communications team. Melissa Kempf has been promoted from Relationship Officer to Development Director. She will supervise the development and communications staff, which includes Cathy Amato Castle, Development Associate, and Chris Kloss, Development & Communications Administrator.



Upcoming Meetings

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