

Oct. 4, 2021

Dear Gov. DeWine and Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

The recent economic upheaval, combined with rapidly increasing housing costs, have put many of our neighbors in precarious circumstances. Even before the pandemic, nearly 400,000 Ohio households were spending over half their income on rent, and that number has surely increased during the past year and a half.

Ohio's \$5.6 billion allocation of State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFR) funding provides an unprecedented opportunity to address housing insecurity. **We, the undersigned organizations, call on Gov. DeWine and the General Assembly to make a one-time investment of SLFR funds to preserve and increase the supply of affordable rental homes in Ohio.**

We propose investing at least \$391 million in SLFR funding in the following capital initiatives. This proposal was developed in accordance with the State's guidance that SLRF funds be used for one-time investments that bolster existing infrastructure without increasing ongoing operating costs, and must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024 and fully expended by Sept. 30, 2026. While there may be other worthy programs that fit these criteria, any housing-related allocation of SLFR funding should, at minimum, include the following:

- \$150 million in gap financing through Ohio's housing tax credit programs to develop up to 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing to serve survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence, chronically homeless individuals with severe behavioral health challenges;
- \$150 million in gap financing to leverage the 4% housing tax credit and Multifamily Bond programs to develop and preserve up to 5,000 rental units that are affordable to lower-income Ohioans;
- \$45 million over three years to rehabilitate more homes for low-income homeowners through the CHIP program, and expand home repair and accessibility modifications through the Housing Assistance Grant Program to keep seniors and Ohioans with disabilities in their own homes;
- \$15 million to fund one-time capital projects that increase housing opportunities for homeless youth;
- \$12 million to expand the FUSE Initiative to house justice-involved Ohioans in five additional counties, and;
- \$6.75 million to expand the Healthy Beginnings at Home pilot for families at risk of infant mortality to four additional counties;

Other SLFR fund investments of at least \$12 million that should be considered include:

- Creation of a state-administered landlord risk mitigation fund to attract and retain more property owners willing to rent to individuals with disabilities and other challenges;

- Housing supports for people with developmental disabilities, which could include Smart Home investments to equip homes with technology needed to increase safety and self-sufficiency, and funding to build or purchase youth respite home facilities, and;
- Capital funding to preserve small permanent supportive housing properties, service enriched housing, and class 2 and 3 residential facilities.

We support this proposed one-time investment of Ohio’s SLFR funds because it will create jobs and reduce state and local spending on other publicly-funded systems, such as hospitals, courts, schools, jails, homeless shelters, and foster care. In addition, it will significantly increase the supply of affordable homes for our most vulnerable neighbors – people with disabilities, low-income seniors, domestic violence survivors, youth aging out of foster care, and families at high risk of infant mortality.

Sincerely,

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) | 25. Buckeye Community Hope Foundation |
| 2. Corporation for Supportive Housing | 26. National Affordable Housing Trust |
| 3. Huntington National Bank | 27. Ohio CDC Association |
| 4. Ohio REALTORS | 28. Finance Fund |
| 5. Ohio Bankers League | 29. The Woda Cooper Companies, Inc. |
| 6. PNC | 30. Wallick Communities |
| 7. Ohio Credit Union League | 31. CHN Housing Partners |
| 8. CareSource | 32. Enterprise Community Partners |
| 9. Nationwide Children's Hospital | 33. Equitas Health |
| 10. Molina Healthcare of Ohio, Inc. | 34. PrimaryOne Health |
| 11. National Church Residences | 35. Homeport |
| 12. Ohio Apartment Association | 36. Millennia Housing Development |
| 13. Habitat for Humanity of Ohio | 37. NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio |
| 14. Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing | 38. Novogradac & Company LLP |
| 15. Ohio Housing Council | 39. The Provident Companies |
| 16. Ruscilli Construction Co., Inc. | 40. Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition |
| 17. Ohio Housing Authorities Conference | 41. Tidwell Group |
| 18. Ohio Domestic Violence Network | 42. Greater Ohio Policy Center |
| 19. Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging | 43. AIDS Healthcare Foundation |
| 20. National Association for Rural Mental Health | 44. Policy Matters Ohio |
| 21. Ohio Conference of Community Development, Inc. | 45. UHCAN Ohio |
| 22. Ohio Association of Foodbanks | 46. Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice |
| 23. The Ohio Council of Churches | 47. A Guided Home |
| 24. Model Group | 48. Abuse & Rape Crisis Shelter of Warren County |
| | 49. ACCESS, Inc. |
| | 50. Adams County Homeless Shelter |

51. Affordable Housing Advisors, LLC
52. Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio
53. Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus & Franklin County
54. Alliance for Children & Families, Inc
55. Area Agency on Aging District 7
56. Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
57. Aurora Project, Inc
58. Avondale Development Corporation
59. Barbara Poppe and Associates
60. Broken Connections, Inc
61. Catholic Charities Bishop William M. Cosgrove Center
62. Cincinnati Development Fund
63. City of Whitehall
64. Columbiana County Educational Service Center
65. Columbus Apartment Association
66. Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
67. Columbus Early Learning Centers
68. Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
69. Community Action Commission of Fayette County
70. Community Action Organization of Scioto County
71. Community Building Partnership
72. Community Development for All People
73. Community Housing Network
74. Community Shelter Board
75. COMPASS Family & Community Services
76. Cradle Cincinnati
77. Creative Housing | Creative Renovations
78. Crisis Care Line
79. EDEN Inc.
80. Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority
81. Fair Housing Contact Service
82. Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc.
83. Famicos Foundation
84. Family Promise of Delaware County
85. Findlay Hope House for the Homeless, Inc.
86. First English Lutheran Church
87. Franklin County Recorder's Office
88. Freshwater Future
89. Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition
90. Green National
91. Grovedale Consulting
92. Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County
93. Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning Valley
94. Habitat for Humanity of the Tri-State
95. Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio
96. HAPCAP/Southeast Ohio Foodbank
97. Haven of Portage County
98. Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter - Marion Shelter Program, Inc.
99. Heart to Heart Family Support Center
100. Home Is The Foundation
101. Homefull
102. Hooker DeJong, Inc.
103. Humility of Mary Housing
104. Hunger Network in Ohio
105. IMPACT Community Action
106. Inclusive Housing Resources
107. Ironton Lawrence CAO
108. JOVIS
109. Kings Local Food Pantry
110. Knox Metropolitan Housing Authority
111. Lance Fred Greene Corporation
112. Liberty Center of Sandusky County
113. Licking County Coalition for Housing
114. Lighthouse Youth & Family Services
115. LISC Greater Cincinnati
116. Lorain County Coordinated Entry
117. Lowenstein Development, LLC
118. Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition

119. Luken Solutions
120. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
121. Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio
122. MACHDO
123. Mahoning County Homeless Continuum of Care
124. Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio
125. Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority
126. Mercy Manor, Inc.
127. Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati
128. MHARS Board Lorain County
129. Miami Valley Community Action Partnership
130. Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.
131. Montgomery County Commission
132. Montgomery County Homeless Solutions Policy Board
133. Mota Design Group, Inc.
134. Move to PROSPER
135. My Sister's Place
136. Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield
137. Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, Inc.
138. Neighborhood Properties, Inc.
139. NEO Black Health Coalition
140. New Sunrise Properties
141. Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
142. Ohio Animal Advocates
143. Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
144. Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation
145. Price Hill Will
146. Public Health -Dayton & Montgomery County
147. Reeb Avenue Center
148. Regionomics
149. RESULTS Columbus
150. Right Path Financial Coaching
151. Saad & Saad LLP
152. Saint Vincent de Paul, Dayton
153. Saint Vincent de Paul Society, St. Teresa of Calcutta conference
154. Sawmill Road Management Company
155. Siemer Institute
156. Slavic Village Development
157. St Matthew Episcopal Church
158. St. Paul's Community Center
159. Star Title Agency LLC
160. Strategies to End Homelessness
161. Summit Community Development Corp., Inc.
162. Sunset Development
163. Tender Mercies, Inc.
164. The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
165. The Akron Leadership Foundation
166. The Community Builders
167. The Homeless Families Foundation
168. Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board
169. Tom Albanese Consulting, LLC
170. Torrey Hill Apartments
171. TouchPointe Marriage and Family Resources
172. Tri-County LLC
173. TUSCARAWAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
174. United Methodist Church for All People
175. Urban Strategies Inc
176. Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Council
177. Vincentian Ohio Action Network
178. Vogt Strategic Insights
179. Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
180. YWCA Greater Cincinnati
181. YWCA Mahoning Valley
182. Zanesville Housing Development Corporation

