



## Ohio Housing and Homeless Collaborative A Statewide Plan to Ensure Sustained Partnerships Across Public Health and Housing Systems to Support Ending Chronic Homelessness

In the absence of an Ohio plan to end homelessness, in alignment of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness plan, “Opening Doors”, Ohio’s statewide Housing and Homeless Collaborative has developed the following plan to ensure sustained partnerships across public health and housing systems that will result in short-term and long-term strategies to support the population of focus. This plan is provided to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in fulfillment of Ohio’s requirements under the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals – States grant award.

**Background:** In 2012, Governor Kasich authorized the Ohio Housing and Homeless Collaborative (OHHHC) as a replacement initiative for the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. The OHHHC is a statewide interagency working group that is co-chaired by the directors of Ohio Development Services Agency and the Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services.

In addition to the Development Services Agency and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Collaborative membership currently includes participation from the following state agencies and its state homeless and housing advocacy organizations:

- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Department of Youth Services
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- Ohio Housing Finance Agency
- Corporation for Supportive Housing
- Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio

- Continuum of Care Lead
- Ohio Council of Healthcare Providers
- Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers
- United States Veterans Administration

The OHHC works collaboratively to align resources and create new, comprehensive approaches to address housing and homelessness in Ohio by utilizing public and private resources at both the state and federal levels. The members work to coordinate funding priorities and strategies as well as engage local housing and homelessness interest groups. The engagement of local advocacy groups, service providers, local Continuums of Care, developers, and private industry individuals aids in understanding issues and developing effective solutions.

Regular meetings of the OHHC occur quarterly in January, April, July, and October. Individual workgroups, which address key initiatives of the collaborative, meet on an ongoing basis and provide reports at the quarterly meetings.

To prepare for the development of the statewide plan, as required by the CABHI- States Grant, the OHHC appointed a subcommittee consisting of members of the OHHC, CABHI sub grantees and OhioMHAS project director and manager. This subcommittee held several meetings to gather and discuss goals and objectives to be incorporated into the work of the Ohio Housing and Homelessness Collaborative. Drafts were shared with leadership of the OHHC (Director of OhioMHAS and Development Services Agency) and a final draft was presented to the OHHC membership on January 23, 2015 who approved the plan to be submitted to SAMSHA for review and approval.

OHHC has committed to address identified barriers and infrastructure related issues as we strive to impact the state infrastructure. Through the collaboration of state agencies, community providers and consumers we believe that we can make major strides towards statewide reform of the behavioral health system and recovery support services. OHHC will appoint a CABHI subcommittee that will actively work to accomplish the goals set forth in the plan to monitor and measure the outcomes of services provided as well as to link the population of focus to safe, stable, decent and affordable housing as it is a critical component to sustained recovery. This subcommittee established regular and ongoing work sessions and will provide reports at the quarterly meetings.

Ohio will address ending chronic homelessness in alignment with ***Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness***, addressing four of the five themes:

- Increase Leadership, Collaboration, and Civic Engagement
- Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing

- Increase Economic Security
- Improve Health and Stability

**Objective 1:** The Ohio Housing and Homeless Collaborative will expand its membership to include representatives from the following agencies/entities by July, 1, 2015:

- Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) Sub-Grantee
- Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Governor's Office of Health Transformation
- Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation
- Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA)
- One or more of Ohio's Continua of Care Collaborative Applicant and/or Grant Recipient
- Person(s) who have experienced homelessness (veteran and non-veteran)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant Project Officer

**Objective 2:** The Ohio Housing and Homeless Collaborative will author and approve an Ohio Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

**Objective 3:** Develop a strategy to align targeting of state-funded Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless persons with HUD requirements of 85%, by January 1, 2016. We will create a baseline to measure the percentage of units/beds prioritized for chronically homeless according to the "Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness, Homeless Veterans and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status", issued July 28, 2014.

**Objective 4:** Increase the supply of affordable housing units that serve chronically homeless, homeless individuals and families, and other targeted populations whose disabling conditions put them at significant risk of chronic homelessness.

- Add 2,046 affordable, subsidized units (682 per year) through a combination of unit production and leasing strategies throughout Ohio
- Implement or strengthen targeting strategies to ensure that those most vulnerable are prioritized for both existing and newly created units by July 1, 2016
- Work with OHFA to ensure tax credit and other funding sources effectively target the most vulnerable; 2016 QAP process is modified to reflect this strategy
- Establish partnerships at local Housing Authorities to create set-asides or preferences that support the unit production goals established. Baseline data on local Public Housing Authority's administrative plans collected by December 31, 2015; 10% increase each year in the number of PHA's with preferences or set-asides for chronically homeless

individuals/families and other vulnerable populations who are at risk of chronic homelessness

- Encourage each local Continuum to establish strategies to align capital, operating, and supportive services funding to promote the unit production goals by December 31, 2015

**Objective 5:** Initiate a strategy to increase earned and unearned income among individuals and families served by homeless assistance programs.

- Work with the nine Continua of Care to establish baseline performance information by January 15, 2016
- Establish benchmark performance targets that reflect the top 25% performance levels in the state on 1) increase in earned income among stayers and leavers; and 2) increase in mainstream benefit receipt among stayers and leavers
- Continue to train SOAR staff and others ongoing on medical documentation and functional assessment needs of individuals seeking mainstream benefits
- SSI Ohio Project Coordinator will continue to promote SOAR program ongoing to additional potential stakeholders and specialist
- CABHI Staff will be trained in the SOAR technique by October 1, 2015

**Objective 6:** By December 31, 2015, member agencies of Ohio Housing and Homeless Collaborative will review, revise, and update state discharge plans to ensure persons are not intentionally discharged into homelessness to the extent applicable for their population.

- Member agencies will develop strategies to support their plan

**Objective 7:** By July 1, 2015, the OHHC will develop a participation agreement for all Ohio Housing and Homelessness Collaborative member agencies and organization that will include roles, responsibilities and participation requirements.