



June 25, 2013

TO: Community Mental Health and Addiction Services Partners

FR: Tracy J. Plouck, Director

RE: Housing Updates

As SFY13 draws to a close, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) continues to work with other state agencies and local organizations, including local boards, to achieve goals toward specific community housing priorities. We are continuing to focus efforts on the creation of new housing, preservation of existing housing stock, sustainability of housing operations, and provision of effective services to assist individuals with their recovery. I am pleased to share updates on current and upcoming housing activities.

Creation of New Housing Opportunities

- 1. Community Capital Funding:** The FY13/14 state capital bill awarded \$10 million for community mental health projects. Housing continues to be the top priority for the use of these funds. As of April 2013, ODMH has expended \$4,475,000 for 195 units of new housing throughout the state. We continue to work through a queue of potential projects with boards and anticipate that all FY13/14 capital funds will be committed by September 2013.
- 2. Capital planning for the FY15/16 biennium** will begin in July 2013, with ADAMH/CMH and ADAS boards receiving instructions for submitting capital plans for their areas. Boards will be invited to submit capital plans for both mental health and addiction needs for housing, program space, residential and consumer operated housing.
- 3. Ohio's HUD Section 811 Application:** Ohio was one of 36 states that applied for the revised FY 12 Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Project Rental Assistance Demonstration (PRA Demo) program. Unfortunately, Ohio's application was not approved for this round of funding. It is

anticipated that due to the response from states, HUD will release another application next year, and Ohio is planning to submit another application.

- 4. Housing Development Grant Opportunities:** There are two primary grants that are available for development of smaller housing projects. The Federal Home Loan Bank grant was released recently with an application due date of August 31, 2013 to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The Ohio Housing Finance Agency's (OHFA) Housing Development Gap Financing program guidelines were released in April 2013 and will be due to OHFA on June 28, 2013. To assist those agencies and boards who have capital projects for housing included in their FY13/14 capital plan, ODMH, in partnership with Corporation for Supportive Housing, has offered two trainings to assist in the application process and submission requirements so that applicants can be successful in obtaining these funds. ODMH will be offering a letter of support and tentative commitment of capital funds for those already in the pipeline.

Preservation of existing housing stock

- 1. Capital Investment Program (CIP) 2013:** The 2013 CIP program includes \$4 million for more comprehensive and substantial rehabilitation to existing capital funded projects, with the goal of bringing housing to a 2013 housing quality standard. OHFA has set aside \$3 million of Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars, and ODMH has set aside \$1 million in capital funds from the FY13/14 biennium. OHFA and ODMH expect to preserve approximately 100 units that have current capital mortgages.

CIP program guidelines were released in April 2013 with applications due June 12, 2013. There was a mandatory training held on May 9 to review guidelines and application process for any board or provider interested in applying. The program guidelines can be found at:

<http://ohiohome.org/hdap/2013CIP-Draft.pdf>

- 2. Adult Care Facility (ACF) Critical Repair Grant:** In FY11, OHFA committed \$1 million dollars in Ohio Housing Trust Fund dollars to assist ODMH licensed Adult Care Facilities with critical repairs to preserve the longevity of the facility for use as a ACF. It is anticipated that 125-135 Adult Care Facilities will receive funding.

ODMH is pleased to announce that OHFA has offered an additional \$320,000 in Housing Trust Fund dollars for FY14 to assist more ODMH Licensed Adult Care

Facilities. ODMH is beginning to work on the new guidelines for these funds and will continue to provide updates.

Sustainability of Housing Operations, Access and Retention Services

- 1. Supportive Housing Grant Match:** ODMH set aside funds to assist with the match for the Development Services Agency's Permanent Supportive Housing Grant. This grant provides Housing Trust Fund dollars to assist low income, homeless individuals with access to housing. This year ODMH was able to award 100% of the local match request for each project that obtained the grant from DSA. ODMH allocated \$366,675 in match to leverage \$4,914,730 in grant awards. These funds provide significant funding for housing subsidies, operations for housing, and services for homeless individuals.
- 2. FY 12 Housing Mini Grants:** The FY12 Housing mini grants targeted "hardest to house" populations. This grant funded 11 of the 27 boards that applied for a total of \$300,000. These grants are time-limited and encouraged innovative solutions to assisting hard to house individuals to be successful in housing.
- 3. Core competency trainings:** Ohio Capital Corporation has trainings through their training academy and is offering scholarships to Mental Health and Addiction housing agencies or staff. For more information on the training schedule go to:
http://www.occh.org/training/OCCH_Training_Academy_Schedule_2013.pdf . If you are interested in attending one of these trainings please contact Roma Barickman at roma.barickman@mh.ohio.gov for availability.
- 4. Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Grant (PATH):** PATH is an outreach and engagement program that links homeless or at risk of homelessness persons, who have a mental illness and who may have a co-occurring substance use disorder, with housing services. The Federal Fiscal Year 2014 PATH request was submitted to the federal government last week, and Ohio is expecting to continue funding for the current twelve projects. This year PATH is planning to offer a one-time mini-grant of approximately \$40,000 to be awarded to a program currently providing transitional aged youth services (linkages to housing, community mental health, etc.) in their local community. For more information on PATH or the mini grant for Transition Aged Homeless Youth, please contact Deb Givens at (614) 466-7347 or Deborah.Givens@mh.ohio.gov.

Other Information & Endeavors

- 1. Consolidation of ODMH and ODADAS:** Due to the importance of housing, the new consolidated agency (OhioMHAS) will have a housing team. This team under the Division of Recovery and Treatment will be comprised of Doug Bailey, community capital coordinator; Roma Barickman, housing coordinator; Deb Givens, State PATH Coordinator; Ellie Jazi, RSS Administrator; and Alisia Clark, Access to Recovery Coordinator.
- 2. Housing Options for Ohioans Recovering from Addiction:** Work to explore a viable range of recovery-focused housing options for Ohioans recovering from substance use disorders continues in Ohio. In January 2013, ODMH/ODADAS and The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers began an environmental scan to document practices and outcomes of recovery housing approaches throughout Ohio and the United States. The environmental scan will identify effective models and key elements of recovery housing; identify the technical expertise, community capacity, infrastructure, and financial capital necessary to develop and operate recovery housing; document the legal and regulatory considerations when creating policies that align with the goals of recovery housing; and make recommendations for next steps and operational considerations. To date, we have conducted a systematic literature review of both peer-reviewed and non-academic resources and a review of state and federal housing laws and regulations. The research team completed key informant interviews with service providers, agency administrators, persons in recovery, policy makers, housing developers, advocates, and other stakeholders. In late April, two research teams traveled to five communities in Ohio to conduct in-depth site visits of recovery-focused housing programs. We are in the final stages of the scan and expect to release and present the findings in July 2013.
- 3. Recovery Requires a Community:** This budget initiative, in partnership with Ohio Medicaid, will enable our system to make further progress in assisting individuals with mental illness to transition from nursing facilities into less restrictive community settings. The program intends to serve 1,500 people over the next three years.
- 4. Long- Term Care Consumer Guide Website:** Over the last year, ODMH, the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), NAMI Ohio, and the HOME Choice program have been working together to revamp and expand ODA's web-based Long-Term Care Consumer Guide. This collaborative effort was initiated to

provide users more resources and expand the availability of searching for facilities. The guide will continue to feature nursing homes and residential care facilities (assisted living) as it has for a number of years. This expansion project provides probate court judges, administrators, guardians, and the community with a web-based resource enabling users to search for all licensed facility types available for those with physical disabilities and mental illness. The new guide site will launch in July 2013 and will feature supportive living resources, including residential treatment facilities and adult care facilities (i.e., group and family homes).

- 6. Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program:** New applications are being accepted for RSS statewide as funds continue to be available. RSS provides financial assistance to adults with low incomes who have a disability and/or are over age 60, but who do not require care at a nursing facility. The program's goal is to help consumers reside in the least restrictive environment with community-based services. The RSS webpage has program information and is available at: <http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/promote/consumer-supports/housing/residential-state-supplement.shtml>. Please contact Ellie Jazi, RSS Administrator, for further information at ellie.jazi@mh.ohio.gov or 614-466-6783.

Housing is a critical component to an individual's recovery and ODMH remains committed to looking at ways to increase housing stock, preserve existing housing, provide technical assistance, and work with state partners to increase opportunities for housing for persons with mental illness and addiction issues. If you have any questions about these initiatives or other housing questions, please contact Roma Barickman at 614-466-4750 or roma.barickman@mh.ohio.gov.