

# President's Award Nomination

## Northeast Ohio Rent Help - CHN Housing Partners

<https://chnhousingpartners.org/rentalassistance/>

In the Spring of 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Cuyahoga County Department of Development convened the seven entitlement communities of the County in order to discuss the CARES Act and possible collaboration on the use of CDBG-CV funds. The partners determined that due to the associated shutdowns and the dramatic rise in unemployment, thousands of Cuyahoga County residents could face eviction.

The lead jurisdictions in this effort, the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County worked together to issue an RFP for an organization able to quickly ramp up and be able to administer emergency rental assistance to the thousands of tenants facing dramatic losses in income and the sudden inability to pay monthly rent. CHN Housing Partners, a non-profit affordable housing developer, housing stability service provider, and CDFI, was determined to be the perfect choice to implement such a program.

CHN Housing Partners worked with its partners and the HUD Columbus Field Office to design a program that provides a one-stop shop for housing stability in Cuyahoga County. The Cities of Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Lakewood and South Euclid were all able to join the effort. Additionally, CHN Housing Partners partnered with EDEN, Inc. in order to assist residents through ESG and ESG-CV funded programs. They partnered with Step Forward, Cuyahoga County's Community Action Agency, in order to expand rent assistance with the help of the State of Ohio and to connect tenants to utility assistance. They partnered with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to coordinate eviction prevention efforts. CHN Housing Partners also worked with a network of community organizations, CDC's and housing counseling agencies to serve as referral partners for their emergency assistance programs.

Through the end of June, 2021 CHN Housing Partners has disbursed over \$32M and assisted 8,300 households through the Northeast Ohio Rent Help program. They have coordinated multiple funding sources to reach this milestone, including: CDBG-CV, the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and US Treasury ERA

This award has been earned by CHN Housing Partners and all of their government and non-profit partners for quickly responding to a housing crisis through a monumental collaboration. This program reflects outstanding performance in addressing significant and immediate needs in the region.

**Commented [KC1]:** We worked directly through the County and City CD offices.