


Update: Double Jeopardy - the Coronavirus & Homelessness in Ohio

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Bill Faith, Executive Director

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio | 175 S. Third St. Suite 580 Columbus, OH 43215


Emergency Philanthropic Response




- Responding to immediate needs of homeless system until federal funding arrives
- Operation Reduce Density – reduce congregate shelter spaces
- COHHIO Pandemic Emergency Fund - raised \$1,828,000 to date funded \$890,000 distributed
- Community funds around the state, many prioritize housing & homelessness uses
- Government agencies increased flexibility for grantees, redeploying \$\$\$ reserves funds via OHFA

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Government Funding



- **FEMA** – to reimburse costs for non-congregate sheltering
- Requires 25% match



- **Coronavirus Relief Fund** – US Treasury Program - \$4.532b to Ohio plus Allocations to Columbus and 5 largest counties –uses include pandemic related sheltering costs, homeless prevention, rental assistance, mortgage assistance, unforeseen financial costs for funerals and other emergency individual needs



- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)** – \$45.6 million for round 1 in CARES (June 2020 thru 9/2022). Round 2 coming this summer
- Help for shelter costs, rapid rehousing, homeless prevention

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Government Funding



- **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** – advocating for state allocation about \$36 million – started pilot \$1.25m
- Rapid rehousing, homeless prevention for families with children



- **CDBG** - \$90.9 million to Ohio from CARES Act (V 3.0) that could be used for rental assistance
- **\$100 billion rent assistance** Sherrod Brown introduced bill 5-6-20 and Chairwoman Maxine Waters introduced House bill – for recently unemployed

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Vulnerable Populations and Supply Shortages

- Severe shortage of PPE, hygiene, and sanitation supplies statewide – looks like some of this is getting addressed
- Testing via ODH is becoming available for those with symptoms or likely exposed in congregate shelters
- Still have gap of spaces for those who are at high-risk for poor health outcomes and those who are unsheltered
- Many homeless programs have taken steps for non-congregate sheltering – via hotels and expanded shelter space but sustainability is a real issue...

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Quarantine/Isolation Established without Adequate Services

- Lack of consistent onsite medical and behavioral health services still a challenge
- Technology challenges for Tele-health and remote learning
- Q/I and other non-congregate sites are not financially sustainable beyond the immediate term, unless the State of Ohio acts quickly to make funding available

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Emergency shelters are struggling with reduced capacities

- Increases in financial and operational needs to accommodate CDC guidelines and the impacts of “stay at home” and other orders
- Significantly fewer volunteers, community programs, and on-site healthcare providers
- Increases in utility costs as residents generally stay onsite
- Declines in staff retention
- Reduction of emergency shelter capacity to accommodate CDC guidelines; the gap varies by community
- Expansion sites are not financially sustainable long-term, unless the State of Ohio acts to quickly make funding available

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For more info:

Bill Faith- billfaith@cohhio.org
<https://cohhio.org>
614-579-6108

<https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

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