

June 16, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Gov. DeWine,

The coronavirus pandemic has really illustrated the intimate connection between stable housing and good health. We are gravely concerned that the economic recession will sever this connection for many Ohioans who are struggling to maintain their housing. **We call on your administration to deploy at least \$100 million from Ohio's federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for emergency rental assistance for unemployed tenants who are unable to pay their rent.**

Nearly 1.3 million Ohioans have filed jobless claims in the past 11 weeks. Layoffs are disproportionately impacting lower income workers who rent their homes. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that more than 1.25 million Ohio renters have experienced income loss, including layoffs, pay cuts and furloughs. Local courts have resumed eviction hearings, and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (additional \$600 per week) is set to expire next month. **The facts are clear: without immediate and decisive action, Ohio faces a tsunami of evictions. We must not exacerbate this public health crisis with a flood of Ohioans entering our local homeless shelters.**

Fortunately, the federal CARES Act has provided Ohio with resources to prevent a full-blown housing crisis if we act now, as other states have done. For example, Pennsylvania's new COVID Relief Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program, which includes \$150 million federal CRF, provides a model for Ohio to provide emergency rental assistance.

We respectfully request the administration dedicate at least \$100 million in CRF to create an emergency rental assistance program to be administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and/or the Ohio Development Services Agency. These state agencies would partner with local nonprofits that have a strong track record of distributing housing assistance responsibly. Tenants would apply through these organizations for assistance that would be paid directly to their landlords. Given the breadth of demand and limited resources, this initiative should target tenants with the lowest incomes as assessed at the moment of application.

Emergency rental assistance is critical for stabilizing Ohio's rental housing market. Ohioans need help now to pay the rent, and landlords need rental income to pay their employees, mortgages, taxes and property maintenance costs.

Funding from the CRF must be spent by the end of 2020. In order to ensure the stability of tenants and property owners into next year, we further ask that the remaining \$37 million of Ohio's remaining supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CARES

Act) funding be earmarked for emergency rental assistance for rural, suburban, and urban communities.

We are hopeful that Congress will enact legislation to provide significantly more funding for emergency rental assistance. However, even if this proposal is enacted soon, it will take months before those resources flow to Ohio's tenants and rental property owners.

We implore you to quickly invest a portion of our state's federal emergency relief funds to keep Ohio's tenants and rental market healthy during this public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Ohio Bankers League
Ohio REALTORS
Huntington Bank
Cleveland Clinic
Mount Carmel Health System
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Ohio Mayors Alliance
Ohio Credit Union League
Ohio Real Estate Investors Association
First Financial Bank
Ohio Catholic Conference
Ohio Housing Council
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Park National Bank
RiverHills Bank
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
Equitas Health
Ohio Manufactured Homes Association
Advocates for Ohio's Future
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
National Affordable Housing Trust
Habitat for Humanity of Ohio
National Church Residences
Wallick Communities
Dominium Apartments
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio CDC Association
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy

Akron Cleveland Association of REALTORS
Building Industry Association of Central Ohio
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
Mental Health and Addiction Services Coalition
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Greater Ohio Policy Center
Hunger Network in Ohio
Carlyle Management Co.
NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio
Enterprise Community Partners
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
The Community Builders
YMCA of Central Ohio
YWCA Greater Cincinnati
Zanesville Metropolitan Housing Authority
The Center for Family Safety and Healing
Human Services Chamber of Franklin County
Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation
Huckleberry House
YWCA Columbus
Policy Matters Ohio
UHCAN Ohio
Ohio Healthy Homes Network
Northern Ohio Apartment Association
614 Youth Prevention Agency LLC
ACCESS
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)
Affordable Housing Advisors, LLC
Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio

Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County
Akron Leadership Foundation
Aldridge Palay Group
Alliance for Children and Families Inc.
Area Agency on Aging District 7
Artemis Center
Aurora Project
Barbara Poppe and Associates
Battered Women's Shelter of Medina & Summit Counties
BBC Development
Beacon 360 Management
Bethany House Services
Butler Metro Housing Authority
Caracole
Caring Kitchen
Center for Civic Engagement, University of Findlay
Central Community House
CHN Housing Partners
Cincinnati Development Fund
City of South Euclid
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
Columbus City Councilwoman Shayla Favor
Columbus Coalition for the Homeless
Community Action Commission of Fayette County
Community Development for All People
Community Housing Network
Community Housing Solutions
Community Shelter Board
Crisis Care Line
Crooked River Action
Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood/Invest In Children
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus
Daybreak, Inc.
DPRA Architects
Easter Seals Serving Greater Cincinnati
Ecumenical Shelter Network of Lake County, Inc.
EDEN Inc.
Eleventh Candle Co.
Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority
Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research

Fair Housing Contact Services
Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc.
Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation
Famicos Foundation
Family Abuse Shelter of Miami Co., Inc.
Family Promise of Butler County
Family Promise of Delaware
Findlay Hope House for the Homeless, Inc.
Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation
First Year Cleveland
Freedom a la Cart
FrontLine Service
FutureHeights
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (WSOS)
Grubers' Columbus Agency, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Findlay/Hancock County
Habitat for Humanity of Mahoning Valley
Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio
Healthy Homes
Highland County Homeless Shelter
Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority
Home Is The (HIT) Foundation
Home Repair Resource Center
Homeport
Humility of Mary Housing
Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati
Joseph's Home
JOVIS
Jurisdiction-Wide Resident Advisory Board
Kings Local Food Pantry
LakewoodAlive
Licking County Coalition for Housing
Lincoln Gardens Apartments
LISC
Lukens Solutions
MACHDO
Mahoning County Land Bank
Make-A-Day Foundation
Miami Valley Community Action Partnership
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
MidTown Cleveland

MVAH Partners
Neighborhood Housing Partnership of
Greater Springfield
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless
Ohio Rep. Brigid Kelly
OneEighty
Operation Kindness
Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
Price Hill Will
Pride Through Empowerment Foundation
Providence House,
Regional Housing Center
Renter Mentor
Resident Resources Network Inc.
S.O.S. Initiatives, Inc.
Saad & Saad LLP
SourcePoint
South Street Ministries
Southeast Inc.
St. Mary Development Corp.
Strategic Opportunities
Tender Mercies Inc.
THE ABCD, INC
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo
The Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.
The Haven of Portage County
The Homeless Families Foundation
The Law Office of Rachel K. Robinson, LLC
The Partnership Center, Ltd.
The Well CDC
Thriving Communities Institute
Tidwell Group
Tiffin-Seneca United Way
United Way of Greater Cleveland
Vincentian Ohio Action Network
Vogt Strategic Insights
Warren Homes Rental Office
West Park Kamm's Neighborhood
Development
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
Yellow Springs Home, Inc.
Yourkvitch & Dibo, LLC