

Cuyahoga County, Office of Homeless Services

Overview:

- **Historically, The Office of Homeless Services was jointly funded by Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland. Today, although OHS is strictly a County Office, we still maintain the relationship with the City of Cleveland to collaboratively serve the homeless community.**
- **OHS serves as the lead agency for the Homeless Continuum of Care and the Homeless Management Information System**
 - As the CoC lead agency, OHS is responsible for the coordination, convening, and planning for the homeless system. As the HMIS lead, we are responsible for providing the HMIS System Administrator for the system, which serves as the technical point of contact for training, support, and reporting.
 - OHS serves as the backbone of the CoC, which includes over 40 agencies and over 200 programs.
 - OHS is responsible for the procurement, contracting, monitoring, and service delivery of over \$40M in other federal resources.

Staffing:

- **OHS's biennial budget is essentially the same as the 2021 levels of expenditures. Revenues reflected solely as HHS Levy, which translates directly into contracts and professional services.**
- The 2020 budget assumes a staffing level of 5 FTEs., (4) programmatic, (1) HMIS Administrator, and (1) Fiscal Officer.

Reductions:

- No programs or services were projected to be reduced or eliminated from the 2021 to the 2022 budget.

New Initiatives:

- No additional project funds were requested for the 2022/2023 budget period.
- **3 top areas for Levy support:** HHS Levy funds provide a **basic safety net** for our homeless community. There are three priority areas of the continuum that are supported by Levy funding including Emergency shelter, Overflow shelter for single adults, families, and young adults, and supportive services. The Levy supports facility maintenance and operations, including food and laundry access; appropriate numbers and skill levels of shelter staff; security, and staff training among other things. The Levy

dollars are very important to maintaining basic, safe, accessible shelter for those households experiencing a housing crisis.

- The Levy funds are leveraged with other federal and state and private foundation funds to meet the community's needs. Dollars to provide rental assistance to help households leave shelter quickly are awarded to Cuyahoga County through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Continuum of Care competitive Grant process. These funds cannot be spent on shelter, making the Levy funding even more critical.

Future Initiatives:

- OHS will continue leading the continuum in the overarching goal of moving households from a housing crisis to permanent housing as quickly as possible. It is my intention to strengthen our collaboration with colleagues from County Community Development, City of Cleveland, and local philanthropy to not only leverage resources but to strategically align those resources effectively and efficiently to meet the needs of the homeless community. The following initiatives of the upcoming year will be addressed braiding resources from Levy, HUD Continuum of Care, and local and state funding.
- **Homeless CoC Strategic Plan** – Assessment & Analysis of budget, community resources, and its application to community need.
- **Dedicated Case Management & Work Force Development**
- **CoC Specialized Services for subpopulations** – We seek to provide equitable services across our continuum. This work will empower us to look at current policies and procedures, procurement processes, and ensure that we provide meaningful access points for households entering our shelter system and appropriate and safe shelter and housing options.
- **Revitalization of our current shelter model through the creation of Non-Congregate Shelter**