

**For Immediate Release**

January 9, 2012

**Ohio Housing Trust Fund Discretionary Program Awards More Than  
\$700,000 in Grants**

**Columbus** – Today the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) and the Ohio CDC Association (OCDCA) received more than \$700,000 in grants. The grants are from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund Discretionary Program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Development.

"This investment will allow the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio and the Ohio CDC Association to help Ohio's underserved communities, providing them resources to improve their lives," said Michael Hiler, Deputy Chief of the Office of Community Development.

The **Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)** was awarded two grants, totaling \$345,000 to support the Preserving Ohio's Affordable Housing Project/Youth Empowerment Program and the Training and Technical Assistance Program (T&TA). The Preserving Ohio's Affordable Housing Project conducts tenant outreach and education for individuals living in at-risk properties. The Youth Empowerment Program provides outreach to and coordination with homeless youth, ages 18-21 and identifies programs and services to assist this community. The T&TA Program will allow COHHIO to provide assistance to the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care program, planning and implementation of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition and Housing Act and the implementation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

The **Ohio CDC Association (OCDCA)** was awarded three grants totaling \$390,000 for the AmeriCorps/VISTA Cost Share Project, the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program and Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA). The AmeriCorps/VISTA Cost Share Project will help place up to 11 full-time AmeriCorps/VISTA members involved in developing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Ohioans as well as develop affordable housing and counseling for clients. The Individual Development Account provides training and affordable housing development workshops as well as assistance to local governments and nonprofit organizations for community economic development, and microenterprise business development. The T&TA project will assist in the development of innovative models of cost-effective affordable housing, economic development and community development projects as well as assist in providing training opportunities.

*The **Office of Community Development**, located within the Ohio Department of Development's Community Services Division, provides financial and technical assistance to units of local government and nonprofit organizations in Ohio for project activities that benefit low- and moderate-income citizens.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to accelerate and support the teamwork that is absolutely necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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