Housing Insecurity and the Pandemic

Bill Faith, Executive Director
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Before COVID-19:

- Nearly 400,000 households spend over half their income on rent
- Courts process 100,000+ evictions each year
- 70,000+ Ohioans experience homelessness each year, one-third are children
When COVID-19 hit Ohio

- Homeless shelters are optimal breeding grounds for infection
  - Washington D.C.: 269 positive, 15 died
  - Denver: 203 positive
  - Nashville: 88 positive
- Ohio has 300 congregate shelters – serving 10,000+ @day
- COHHIO Pandemic Emergency Fund – PPE/Supply Distribution, training
Impact on Low-Income Ohioans

• 1.3M Ohioans filed unemployment
• 668,000 receiving extra $600/week UI benefits
• Layoffs targeting low-wage jobs:
  o bar, restaurant, hotel workers
  o cashiers
  o retail clerks
  o home health workers
Economic Outlook

• GDP could decrease 30% second quarter
• Recession could last through end of 2021

“It has already erased the job gains of the past decade and has inflicted acute pain across the country. And while the burden is widespread, it is not evenly spread. Those taking the brunt of the fallout are those least able to bear it.”

-Fed Chairman Jerome Powell
Housing Outlook

• All Ohio courts resume evictions this month—big backlogs. Columbus moved eviction court to convention center.

• Stimulus checks are gone. Supplemental unemployment compensation expires late July.

• Landlords need rental income to pay employees, mortgages, taxes, property maintenance
Emergency Rental Assistance - local

• Ohio’s communities providing rental assistance using:
  o Local Community Development Block Grant
  o federal Coronavirus Relief Fund from CARES Act
  o Other local government sources
  o Philanthropy

• Local collaboratives include:
  o Homeless/Housing agencies
  o Community Action agencies
  o Legal aids
  o Foundations
  o Community mediation services
Emergency Rental Assistance - federal

• Sherrod Brown sponsoring $100B ERA legislation
  o Renters apply for assistance paid to landlord
  o Targets low-income renters on the date of application
  o Covers unpaid rent, utilities, mediation
  o Distributed through ESG funding formula

• Included in House-passed HEROES Act
Emergency Rental Assistance - state

• CARES Act created the $150B Coronavirus Relief Fund

• Ohio received $4.3B in CRF – housing eligible activity
  o PA used $150M for ERA
  o IL used $396M for ERA, mortgage assistance

• We’re asking DeWine to invest $100M for ERA
  o $600/month to landlords
  o covers 2 months arrearages, 3 months rent
  o Assist 30,000+ high risk Ohioans
Emergency Rental Assistance - opinion

- 93% support ERA for people who are struggling to pay rent and at risk of eviction as a result of the coronavirus outbreak
- 58% express concern that the coronavirus outbreak will impact their ability to cover housing costs
- 89% say the government has an important role to play in making sure that people don’t get evicted as a result of the coronavirus
You can help!

- Add your organization to our sign-on letter to DeWine
- Ask Sen. Portman to support $100B in ERA
- Go to: www.cohhio.org