

Medina County Housing Network

Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness

The following *strategic framework* was adopted by the Medina County Housing Network on September 9, 2021, to guide our ongoing efforts to address critical housing needs in Medina County:

Our Vision

Everyone in Medina County has the opportunity to have a home and thrive.

Our Common Goal and Mission

To achieve our Vision, the Medina County Housing Network will advocate for sufficient funding and resources to develop and sustain a systematic response that ensures homelessness among Medina County residents is *prevented*, whenever possible, or is otherwise *rare, brief, and one-time*.

Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles define our shared values relative to fulfilling our vision and mission. We believe that:

- › Homelessness is both a personal and community crisis that causes both personal and community harm.
- › Everyone deserves the opportunity to have decent, safe, and stable housing.
- › People should be treated with dignity and respect and afforded as much self-determination as possible.
- › Prevention and homeless assistance should strive to reduce disparities and promote equity.
- › Assistance should be readily accessible, low-barrier, and coordinated to quickly resolve housing crises and assure ongoing housing stability.

Organizing for Impact

To organize and focus our collective efforts to accomplish our vision and mission, the Housing Network formed four ad hoc workgroups around the following key components of a ***Housing Crisis Response System***:

- ✓ **Prevention**
- ✓ **Temporary Housing**
- ✓ **Rapid Rehousing & Permanent Supportive Housing**
- ✓ **Service & Resource Supports**

2022-2023 Strategic Action Plan

The following strategies and actions were adopted by the Medina County Housing Network on 02/10/2022 following a series of ad hoc workgroup meetings focused on each of the four components of a **HOUSING CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM**.

PREVENTION

Goal: *People experiencing a housing crisis in Medina County will have immediate, coordinated access to housing stabilization and homelessness prevention assistance to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible.*

Ad Hoc Workgroup Lead: Vanessa Beane, Fair Housing Contact Service

Strategic Actions:

Strategy	Key Action Steps	Lead
Build community awareness (including among local businesses affected by lack of affordable housing) and advocate for increased affordable housing and tenant protections in Medina County, including examining and promoting source of income, and pay to stay ordinances	a. Discuss strategies and approaches with Equality Ohio and/or COHHIO around protections	Kelly Parker, MC Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) or alternate
Improve coordination and centralized access to public (e.g., PRC, ERA) and private (e.g., faith-based) prevention resources	a. Examine PRC plan and determine any recommendations to incorporate creative strategies/services and supports for at-risk households to connect to both financial assistance and other stabilization supports b. Create single screener and align to available assistance (so not depleting one resource); common triage protocol based on resource mapping c. Track use of prevention assistance to ensure equitable access	Kate Schatz, MC Department of Job & Family Services (MCDJFS)
Provide additional tenant-landlord education	a. FHCS and MMHA collaborate to conduct trainings for LLs, incl benefits of accepting vouchers, fair housing, rights/responsibilities, availability of rental assistance, etc (virtual for now) b. FHCS/MMHA collaborate to conduct trainings for tenants, including strategies to advertise and get word out	Vanessa Beane, Fair Housing Contact Service or alternate

TEMPORARY HOUSING

Goal: *People in Medina County will not be unsheltered due to lack of shelter or other temporary housing. People experiencing literal homelessness will have coordinated access to safe, temporary housing assistance.*

Ad Hoc Workgroup Lead: Nathan Chambers, Hope & Healing (formerly Battered Women’s Shelter of Summit & Medina County)

Strategic Actions:

Strategy	Key Action Steps	Lead
Pursue development of emergency shelter facility to meet needs of Medina County residents not otherwise in need of domestic violence shelter to close current gap (~189 households annually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMHA will continue to pursue opportunities to secure land and resources to develop b. MMHA host pre-design session to gather input from Network members and other stakeholders, including faith-based community, to inform initial site/facility features c. MMHA reach out to other regional shelters to learn about best practices, lessons learned, etc related to facility design 	Skip Sipos, MMHA (early development)
Further coordinate access to emergency hotel/motel options between MMHA, faith-based partners, and other publicly funded assistance for hotel/motel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMHA further explore w/211 	Kelly Parker, MMHA
Further explore needs for specialized temporary housing for Veterans	TBD	Ed Zackery, Veterans Services Commission
Further explore needs for specialized temporary housing for youth (24 and younger)	TBD	Skip Sipos, MMHA (or MCDJFS)

RAPID REHOUSING & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Goal: *People experiencing literal homelessness in Medina County can have immediate, coordinated access to rehousing assistance (time-limited or ongoing) to ensure homeless episodes are brief and rare.*

Ad Hoc Workgroup Lead: Skip Sipos, MMHA

Strategic Actions:

Strategy	Key Action Steps	Lead
Cultivate amenable landlord (LL) partners to increase placement opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Initiate a LL outreach effort to explain the benefits of participating in the program & to extract ideas for LL incentives (more below) b. Catalog units & LL's in a manner easily useable by advocacy organizations & program participants 	Piper Morgan, MMHA
Continue to improve coordinated access to rapid rehousing (RRH) and permanent supportive housing (PSH) resources across providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convene those who provide homeless assistance on regular basis to share information, updates, and increase awareness 	Kelly Parker, MMHA
Create additional incentives for landlords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work w/state advocates to change state regs to pay more than FMR (e.g., 110% payment std) to increase access and incentivize landlords b. Investigate the use of grant funds to pay "vacancy loss" to LL's who will hold a unit for the next program participant 	Chair, MCHN
Fully utilize current RRH funding and then work to secure funding to expand RRH to close current gaps (~112 new household admissions annually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assign staff to study "Best Practices" utilized throughout the industry and specific to Ohio Region 4 b. Create RRH strategies to increase potential success rates of program participants (e.g., institute home visits of program participants) 	Kelly Parker, MMHA
Secure funding to expand/develop PSH to close current gaps (~20 new household admissions annually)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MMHA continue to pursue new PSH development opportunities, including the development of Lafayette Quarters, a 10 unit PSH development slated for the city of Medina 	Skip Sipos, MMHA

SERVICE & RESOURCE SUPPORTS

Goal: *People experiencing a housing crisis in Medina County will have immediate, coordinated access to other services and resources that support housing stabilization, other critical needs, and increased independence.*

Ad Hoc Workgroup Lead: Paul Khacherian, United Way Summit/Medina

Strategic Actions:

Strategy	Key Action Steps	Lead
Improve access to prevention/financial assistance, shelter, and range of service and resource supports.	a. MMHA and 211 explore options to further develop coordinated access in concert w/211	Paul Khacherian, United Way Summit/Medina
Improve access to transportation and related transportation supports	a. Optimize participation in strategic planning process and engage Housing Network members	Steve Hambley, Commissioner, MC Board of Commissioners
Explore needs and opportunities to support people with complex physical, behavioral, and/or mental health needs, including those who involved with multiple providers/systems.	a. Improve access to physically accessible housing for people with mobility issues b. Explore and create cross-sector/partner case conferencing and coordinated case management and wrap around supports	John Thomas, Board of Developmental Disabilities