

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO: CMHA RELEASES UPDATED STRATEGIC PLAN

What is a Strategic Plan and why do we have one?

A strategic plan is like a road map for an organization. It provides pillars upon which the organization's values are built in addition to obtainable and trackable goals and objectives for an organization to meet. Organizations have strategic plans to share with their staff, boards, and community to provide a transparent and actionable road map for their success.

CMHA's Strategic Plan:

Several months ago, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Leadership Team began researching and gathering data from staff members, partner organizations, and community members to update the agency's Strategic Plan. With the assistance of Rice Education Consulting (REdCon), CMHA Leadership Team brought together a number of stakeholders into workshops to gather information. They also sent surveys to stakeholder groups and held focus group interviews. After reviewing all of the data and information, they identified five pillars upon which the strategic plan would be built. Then, they built out the strategies and the steps that would need to be taken each year to be successful. CMHA staff will follow a yearly implementation plan and track the progress of each objective and its impact on the community and the agency.

**Reimagining Community,
Building Tomorrow
CMHA Strategic Plan
2024-2029**

Re-Imagining Affordable Housing 

- Elevate Resident Experience**
 - Maintain a Resident-first culture
 - Provide growth opportunities for residents
 - Enhance resident spaces through preservation of units
- Enhance Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Develop a Stakeholder Communication Plan
 - Identify a system of collecting & responding to feedback
 - Prioritize organizational training
- Establish the "CMHA Way"**
 - Collect & use data for decision-making
 - Refresh and relaunch SOPs
 - Continue financial & operational success by paying down debt
- Strengthen Partnerships**
 - Collaborate with local organizations and businesses for new opportunities of engagement
 - Achieve HUD program indicators in community impact
- Amplify Organizational & Team Success**
 - Recruit & Maintain top talent who demonstrate effective leadership and accountability
 - Refresh & reintroduce a mechanism for staff recognition

Honoring Recent Graduates



In early July, CMHA staff held a Graduate Recognition Ceremony honoring 2024 high school, college, and trade school graduates who are CMHA residents and HCV voucher participants. Ki'Mirra Davis and Zion Buffington attended with their families to receive the recognition. Mr. Gregory Johnson, CMHA CEO, thanked the graduates and provided them encouraging and motivational words during the recognition. He told them, "whatever it is in what you want to do, from this day on, you work towards getting it." He continued, "the key is to go all in on it."



Mrs. Marquita, Director of Asset Management, spoke stating, "we know there are individuals graduating in our communities, and we want to elevate you and lift you up." She praised them for their accomplishment and wished them the best moving forward. In addition, the graduates were given a certificate of recognition, a book, and a goody bag with special items for each of them.

Ki'Mirra stated that she will continue her education at Northern Kentucky University studying psychology. Zion will continue his education in Culinary School.

Envision Center Providing Free Books For Kids



Throughout the month of July, the EnVision Center has been at housing sites giving free books to children for the summer. The program supports literacy for children throughout the summer when many kids experience the “Summer Slide” as they aren’t in school. The EnVision Center has so far handed out 1,115 books to kids between the ages of 3 years and 17 years-old.

The books are provided through The Book Rich Environment (BRE) Initiative through HUD. The BRE Initiative is a collaboration aimed to transform PHAs into book rich environments by providing diverse, high quality books and other literacy tools to children and families living in HUD-assisted housing to improve literacy outcomes and ensure all young people, regardless of background, have the tools they need to reach their full potential. PHAs, public libraries and other local and national education partners.



CMHA Earns Prestigious Honor Participating in The Clean Air Academy

In always looking for better ways to improve on protecting the environment and saving costs, Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) continues to lead the way. Members of the CMHA Housing Development team are participating in The Clean Air Academy from May 2024 to November 2024 with The Rocky Mountain Institute and America Is All In organizations. CMHA is one of only 15 scholarship recipients with over 90 agencies submitting a project application. This is a prestigious honor bestowed on the organization.

The academy runs for six months and includes a workshop series to actively engage experts in the fields of utilizing clean power, building, and transportation investments as well as the adoption of solar power, EV chargers, and fleet electrification options in the building and rehabilitation of CMHA properties. Additionally, there is a support department for technical assistance as well as tools and resources to help the organization establish strong designing and planning of clean energy implementation that qualifies for federal tax credits. Gary Boeres, CMHA Development Director stated, “With this class, CMHA will be able to better leverage funds and look for energy efficient models that can be implemented into new and rehab projects.”

The goal for CMHA Development’s participation in the academy is to secure federal tax funding and financing for projects developed using clean energy technology that aligns with clean energy initiatives and institute infrastructure into the agency that produces cleaner power, uses less energy, and saves energy costs.

RMI, an America is All In contributing partner, is working with communities throughout the US to take up clean energy incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act with the ultimate goals of reducing emissions, increase resilience, and advance social equity. Over the past two years, the team has educated over 1,000 organizations about the Inflation Reduction Act’s clean energy incentives and helped to advance climate-forward policies in multiple states.

HCV Leaders Participate in Minority Homeownership Symposium



OWN BLK Cincy, a local two-day housing symposium, took place at the end of June at Xavier's Cintas Center. The event featured a policy symposium for local, regional, and state leaders discussing regulations surrounding the disparities in minority homeownership on the first day. The second day focused on workshops for people interested in purchasing a home, the home-buying process, hiring quality home maintenance professionals, and how to build wealth by leveraging the equity in a current property.

The Housing Choice Voucher Leadership Team presented a panel on "How To Be a Landlord". The presentation provided information on how to work with CMHA as a landlord in addition to tips and important information regarding documentation necessary and how to accept the vouchers when asked by participants. The panel included Mrs. Lisa Isham, Mrs. Stephanie Stacks, Mrs. Brittany Smith, and Ms. Maryanne Lawrence, a landlord.

Additionally, the Family Self Sufficiency program participated with a resource table in the Wealth Marketplace.





Kings & Queens: Saving Our Youth Partnership

The Kings & Queens: Saving our Youth organization works with children in Winton Terrace and Findlater Gardens communities. CMHA offers the building space above the rental office in Winton Terrace for the organization to use daily.

They have been quite busy this summer providing educational and social programming for about 60 to 100 kids each day. Kings & Queens partners with CMHA to provide a safe space for kids in addition to mentorship, summer activities, after-school activities, youth job fairs, volunteer opportunities in the neighborhood, and much more. The goal of the organization is to show young people an alternative to the street life.





TPS Sites Celebrate the Men in the Communities

Men's appreciation events were held in June at The Reserves, West Union Square, Baldwin Grove and Cary Crossing to honor the residents in each building.



CMHA