



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Ohio had an estimated 1,649 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving nearly four times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (established by executive order in April 2007) develops statewide homeless and affordable housing policies to reduce and prevent homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: Director of the Ohio Department of Development Lisa Patt-McDaniel and Lieutenant Governor Lee Fischer have served as co-chairs of the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing since May 2009 and July 2007, respectively.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Ohio	Cuyahoga County	Hamilton County	Franklin County
Persons in homeless families ²	5,047	452	390	490
Number of family shelter beds ³	4,313	504	372	290
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	12	10	13	12
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	15.86%	17.92%	16.03%	16.48%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No Plan	2006	No Plan	2002
10-Year plan target population	No Plan	All	No Plan	Chronic
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio	Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless	Partnership Center, Ltd.	Community Shelter Board
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Ohio Department of Development	Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services	Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless	Community Shelter Board
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Ohio Department of Development	Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services	Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless	Community Shelter Board

Ohio Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot Project (OFHPP)

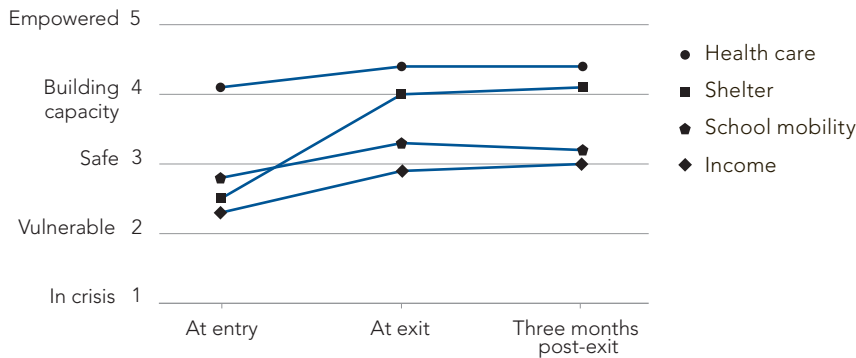
The Ohio Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot Project, established in 2007, aims to prevent homelessness for low-income families with dependent children that are at imminent risk of homelessness. Similar to previous prevention programs, OFHPP offers clients direct cash assistance, but differs from other efforts by focusing on short-term, intensive case management. One year into the three-year pilot, 421 families had entered the program and 277 households had transitioned to stable, permanent housing.⁶ Furthermore, in Franklin County, one of five counties participating in the pilot, case managers found that enrolled families continued to experience improved social-emotional, economic, and parenting situations three months after exit.⁷ However, the pilot assists only the “best-fit” candidates: families that are experiencing an immediate housing crisis, but have the potential to maintain self-suffi-

The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Ohio and other states, visit www.icprwb.org



ciency and are willing to adhere to program requirements. The program thereby excludes some families that do not have work experience, have low education levels, or may have barriers to prevent their participation in intensive case management, such as substance abuse or domestic violence.⁸ While unable to serve all eligible households, the pilot program does leverage limited financial resources to help as many families as possible to avoid homelessness.

Change in Case Managers' Self-Sufficiency Rating of Franklin County OFHPP Participants (Enrollment April–December 2008)



Source: The Strategy Team, Ltd., *Interim Assessment Report 2 to Community Shelter Board: Evaluation of Central Ohio's Stable Families Program*, August 31, 2009.

Efforts to End Rural Homelessness

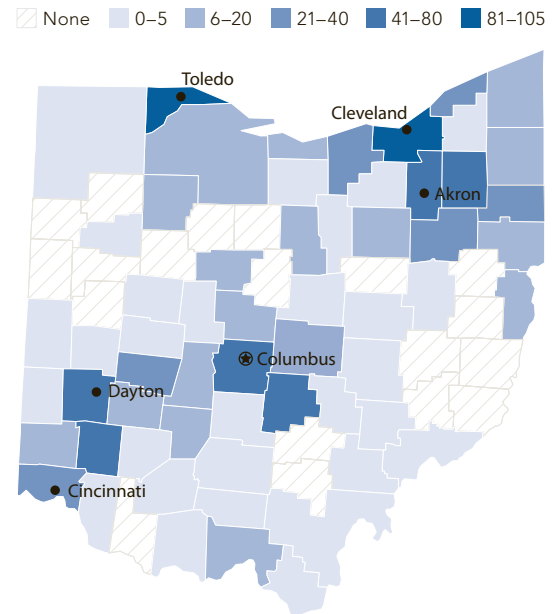
Persons experiencing rural homelessness are often called the “hidden homeless” because sparse geographic distribution makes them “invisible.” In much of Ohio, a lack of shelter forces homeless families to live in cars or “doubled-up” in overcrowded housing. To address the issue of rural homelessness, in 2006, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations with the National Alliance to End Homelessness, launched the Rural Homeless Initiative in Southeast and Central Ohio (RHISCO). RHISCO creates local plans to end homelessness and fosters regional collaboration in seventeen rural Ohio counties.⁹ These plans mirror their urban counterparts, but focus on the unique needs of rural communities, including lack of homeless resources, local citizens resistance to government assistance, and high numbers of families with children. Seventy-five percent of plans prioritize improving homeless prevention services for families with children. Additionally, four plans specifically target chronically homeless families.¹⁰ According to a one-year progress report, all participating counties have substantially increased case management services and homeless prevention assistance.¹¹

Geographic Distribution of Family Homelessness in Ohio

A one-day point-in-time count indicates family homelessness in Ohio is primarily concentrated in urban areas. The counties that include the cities of Toledo and Cleveland have the highest rates of persons in homeless families per 100 square miles, at 103 apiece. The counties that include Dayton, Columbus, and Akron follow with 72, 70, and 59 persons, respectively; Cincinnati's rate is comparatively much lower, at 27 persons in homeless families per 100 square miles. Nineteen counties report no homeless families, which may be inaccurate. None of these counties have shelters that report data to the government, and 12 of the counties did not conduct an unsheltered count. In these rural areas, homeless families may live in cars or doubled-up, and therefore remain undetected.

Persons in Homeless Families

(per 100 square miles by county)



Source: Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, *2009 Ohio Homelessness Report*.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Community Spotlight: Homeless Prevention: Ohio Department of Development Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot Project (OFHPP)*, August 2009.
- The Strategy Team, Ltd., *Interim Assessment Report 2 to Community Shelter Board: Evaluation of Central Ohio's Stable Families Program*, August 31, 2009.
- Community Research Partners, *Ohio Department of Development: Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot Project, Interim Report 1*, September 2008.
- The seventeen counties involved in the project are Athens, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Licking, Madison, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, Union, Vinton, and Washington.
- Synthesis of 15 local plans to end homelessness created for the 17 RHISCO counties (Jackson and Meigs Counties collaborated to write a single plan and Vinton County's plan is still in progress), <http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/communityplans>
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, *Rural Homeless Initiative in Southeast and Central Ohio: Twelve Month Progress Report: Implementation Phase One*, January 2009.