



OHIO LEGISLATIVE CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

JUNE 2020

COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES

**SAFE, DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE
HEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF OHIO'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Welcome to the
Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus
webinar on youth experiencing homelessness
and housing insecurity**

Opening comments from our co-chairs:

Representative Allison Russo and Senator Peggy Lehner

Gina Wilt

Advocacy Director,

*Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
(COHHIO)*



Asia McKenzie

*Beat the Odds Scholar and Air Transportation
Honors Student at The Ohio State University*



Kate Lodge

Executive Director,

A Place 4 Me, YWCA Greater Cleveland

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Greater Cleveland

A Place 4 Me

Preventing and Ending Youth Homelessness In Cuyahoga County

Ohio's Children Legislative Caucus

June 19, 2020



What We Do

- Prevention for youth aging out of foster care and exiting other systems
- Creating a safety net to quickly identify youth at risk of experiencing homelessness and connecting them to resources
- Providing an array of stable housing options for youth by leveraging federal state and
- Coordinating supporting services to help young people maintain stable housing (employment, flexible pool of emergency dollars, mentoring)



Best Practice Principles

- Authentic youth engagement (nothing about me without me)
- Community Collaboration
- Policy and Advocacy
- **Race Equity and Inclusion Lens**
- Data and communications
- Increased Opportunities



Processes we have put in place

- Young adult appointed to the CoC
- By name list established
- Weekly review process
- Prioritization of scarce housing resources
- Children and Family Services sit at the review table
- Data sharing agreement between homeless system and child welfare system
- Youth with lived experience as “Navigators”
- Youth Board have a seat at the table



Policies

Flexing eligibility as a new normal?

SNAP

TANF

Bridges

HUD

Family
First

Key Data from A Place 4 Me April 2020 Opportunity Passport™ Participant Survey

How many children do you have?

39% of respondents have at least one child

23% of Black/African American respondents have children

4% of White respondents have children

Have you ever slept in a homeless shelter or in a place where people weren't meant to sleep because you didn't have a place to stay?

Yes

32% of respondents, Black/African American

8% of respondents, White

How many paying jobs do you currently have?

One paying job

32% of respondents, Black/African American

9% of respondents, White

None

36% of respondents, Black/African American

10% of respondents, White

What adults do you have in your life right now who can help you go after your life goals?

"Someone in my family"

43% of respondents, Black/African American

17% of respondents, White

3% of respondents, Other

"I don't have any adults who can help me go after my life goals right now."

13% of respondents, Black/African American

2% of respondents, White

Current practices

Driving towards policy

Ohio Department of Health: Homeless pregnant youth demonstration grants

Cuyahoga County: Infant Mortality Coalition

Family First: 30 days to Family

HUD- housing for youth aging out of foster care (FUP, FYI)

CARES ACT- rental assistance

Leave no stone
unturned



A Place 4 Me

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Executive Director

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<https://www.ywcaofcleveland.org/2020-21-day-racial-equity-and-social-justice-challenge/>

Abigail Staudt

*Managing Attorney, Housing Law practice
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland*



The
Legal Aid Society
— *of Cleveland*
Since 1905

Evictions after COVID-19

Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus Webinar:
Safe, decent, and affordable housing is
fundamental to the health and prosperity of
Ohio's children and families

June 19, 2020

Abigail C. Staudt

Managing Attorney



The

Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland

Since 1905

Topics Today

- Who We Are
- Status of Evictions in Cleveland
- COVID-19 Resources
- Right to Counsel – Cleveland
- What to Tell Tenants

Who We Are

Our Mission

To secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.



Founded in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a non-profit organization which provides free legal assistance to low income people with civil legal problems.



Status of Evictions in Cleveland

Administrative Order Postponed Evictions in March

- No new eviction filings accepted, except for emergencies
- Backlog of 500 cases

Housing Court re-opened June 15, 2020

- First, Court will address the backlog
- Filings will be accepted
- Hearing set for 30 days
- Hearing will be virtual, unless in-person hearings are requested

Who is Calling Legal Aid Today?

Housing Cases:

Average number of callers – consistent with last year...until...

Last week, call for housing issues increased by 25%

Callers are seeking assistance for:

- Rent assistance
- Eviction filings
- Cleveland, suburbs, other counties

Trends:

- Cares Act covered housing
- Landlords

COVID-19 Resources

Rent Assistance available now:

- Cuyahoga County:
 - Tenants with children in the household can apply for rent assistance at www.edeninc.org. EDEN needs to use up TANF funding for rent assistance by the end of June.
 - Tenants without children can call Legal Aid at 216-687-1900 or apply online at <https://lasclev.org/contact/>. We will do a referral to EDEN (different source of funding).
 - Tenants can also call 211
- Ashtabula County: Tenants can be referred to Legal Aid (again, even with no notice). Call 216-687-1900 or apply online at <https://lasclev.org/contact/>.
- Lake and Geauga Counties: Tenants can be referred to the Fair Housing Resource Center at 440-392-0147.
- Lorain County: Tenants can be referred to UCAN - www.ucanapply.org.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL – CLEVELAND

Codified Ordinance 1001-2019



Dates:

- Passed October 1, 2019
- Effective date: July 1, 2020

Tenant Eligibility:

- Tenants with at least one child in the household living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
 - Family of 4: \$26,200 annual income

The Right:

- Right to legal representation
 - Partnership between United Way of Greater Cleveland and the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
 - Tenants may also be eligible for emergency financial assistance
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What to Tell Tenants

- **Pay your rent**, if you can
- Communicate with your landlord if you can't pay rent
 - Try to negotiate to pay some
 - Tell your Landlord what efforts you are making to secure the rent
- Call Legal Aid for assistance with unemployment/housing
 - Tenant Information Line: 216-861-5955
 - Workers Information Line: 216-861-5899
- Seek rent assistance
 - Call 211, Legal Aid. Churches

Questions?



The Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

Questions & Answers

For legislators and legislative staff, please feel free to unmute yourselves to ask questions or share feedback.

For all other participants, please use the chat feature.

Thank you for joining today's webinar!



For more information on upcoming Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus webinars and meetings, please contact Alison Paxson at apaxson@childrensdefense.org